



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**D**ominion Brook Park is in need of a volunteer for a key position in its operations: field work coordinator. This position would appeal to those with an interest and enthusiasm for heritage, horticulture, and community green spaces. We are also looking for more field workers for our regular Wednesday morning work party (March to October).

### Field Work Coordinator

A volunteer is needed to plan and guide the weekly and seasonal maintenance work in Dominion Brook Park.

- assessing the maintenance needs in the Park and setting priorities in line with the mandate set out in the Stewardship Agreement with the District of North Saanich, Centre for Plant Health, and the Friends of Dominion Brook Park;
- working with and assisting the District of North Saanich Parks Department with care and maintenance of the Park;

- assigning and guiding the work of 8-15 volunteers at the weekly work party (March to October); and
- working with professionals, e.g. arborists, pruning specialists, etc.

Experience working with volunteers and gardening knowledge would be an asset.

### Worker Bees

We are always in need of extra hands and now more than ever with many of our regular workers needing to take a rest. Below are what our worker bees are called upon for:

- Wednesday morning work party 9-11 a.m., March - October
- Weed, prune, plant, and clean up grounds
- Water and miscellaneous
- Promote the park for community events

For more information contact Joan Gibb at 250-656-4185 or email [contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca](mailto:contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca)

**PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THESE OPPORTUNITES**





## CO-OPERATION AT ITS BEST

We had a fabulous last work day of the 2016 season.

With our mandate, under the Stewardship Agreement with the Federal Government, District of North Saanich, and Friends of Dominion Brook Park Society, we are guided by this agreement to preserve the historical integrity of the Park and its horticultural design so we regularly plant to replace dying and missing specimens.

We planted a very large *Betula Jacquemontii* (Himalayan birch) in the lower south-east area of the Park. Of our two birches (1925), one is at the end of its life cycle so our new, beautiful specimen has been situated to keep true to the design of the Park.

Our second effort that morning was to replace a hedge on the north border. Because of the shady location, we chose Portuguese laurels which are hardy, disease free and easy care with a growth of 1 1/2 to 2' per year.

We also planted a *Cunninghamia Lanceolata* 'Glauca'

and *Abies concolor*, 'Blue Cloak' which are both very interesting in shape and colour, but smaller specimens.



But the real story of the day is the co-operation between the Feds, the District, the Nursery, the donors, and the volunteers which enabled us to plant 16 trees in less than two hours.

It began with a trip to Kimoff Tree Nursery. It was a search mission for just the right specimen for a hedge. They suggested the laurels at 7' and would sell them at almost half the regular price. Great! A casual remark about a Himalayan birch ended with 'would you like it' as a donation to the Park from the Nursery. Yes, please! We purchased nine laurels but then were told we could have as many as we wished after the nine, again, as their donation. We planted 13.

The Centre of Plant Health was asked if they would dig the holes for the trees and the trench for the hedge. Yes, they would and they did a perfect job which made planting easier.

The District was asked if they would pick up the laurels and birch. Yes, they would and duly delivered them on



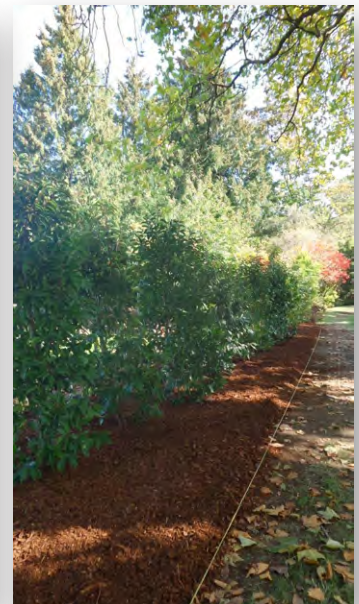
Open space to fill



Digging the trench



Planting the trees



A completed job well done



Wednesday morning. They planted the birch with its 4' root ball which needed a front end loader to complete the job. They also readied the trench by removing old roots and locating the 13 laurel root balls in place.

Our Volunteers amended the soil, steadied the laurels, backfilled, smoothed out the area and made sure all was as it should be. Then as a final touch, the District covered the planting area with mulch. And it looks fabulous.

Our Donors – those people who keep us going – heard of our planting session and dug deep into their pockets and paid for the nine laurels. There were other costs but with the donors, Centre, District, and volunteers working together, we paid only a small percentage of what it would have cost without all of us working together. It was a good day!

## RAVINE UPDATE

This past September we were able to complete the lower streambed restoration. This entailed clearing the 11 metres of streambed between last year's restoration and the stone bridge, lining the streambed with crushed rock, the construction of 2 riffles, and the retaining of the stream sides with 168 of the same FlexMSE planting bags that we used for last years' restoration. For the second year in a row our efforts were supported, in part, by a grant from the Saanich Peninsula Community Foundation. Our thanks go to the SPCF for funding, Peninsula Rock Products for the donation of stone for the streambed, Benson Excavating for their expert equipment operation, and the District of North Saanich for oversight, rock delivery and assistance with bag placement. The work was completed in just two days.

N.A.T.S. Nursery in Langley supplied us with 400 deer ferns which were planted by our volunteers on October 5. All work was completed before the arrival of the first big storms of fall. The stream is again flowing and the lower reaches of the ravine are now complete.

Our attention will now go to fundraising; with the support of the Municipality and the generosity of our members, we hope to proceed with the restoration of the upper ravine and the construction of walking trails.



Visit  
[www.dominionbrookpark.ca/ravine-project](http://www.dominionbrookpark.ca/ravine-project)  
for a slide show presentation  
of this year's Ravine  
Project accomplishments!

## END OF SEASON

And our volunteers did themselves proud in our 15th season of maintaining and restoring our beloved Dominion Brook Park.

The long time regulars were there with new volunteers joining throughout the year. We always welcome them with open arms and hope they bring their friends.

It was a very dry season which meant regular watering and removal of debris to lessen fire possibilities which added to our work load. Although against regulations, there are still a few Park goers who continue to smoke and throw their butts on the ground.



Two of our bigger jobs have already been mentioned. However, the volunteers, both the regulars and those joining for special days, have contributed almost 500 hours of work in 2016.

A very big thank you to all who have given of their time and effort to continue the restoration of this 'Jewel of the Peninsula'.

## FEATURED PLANT

*Cunninghamia lanceolata* 'Glauca'  
(China Fir)

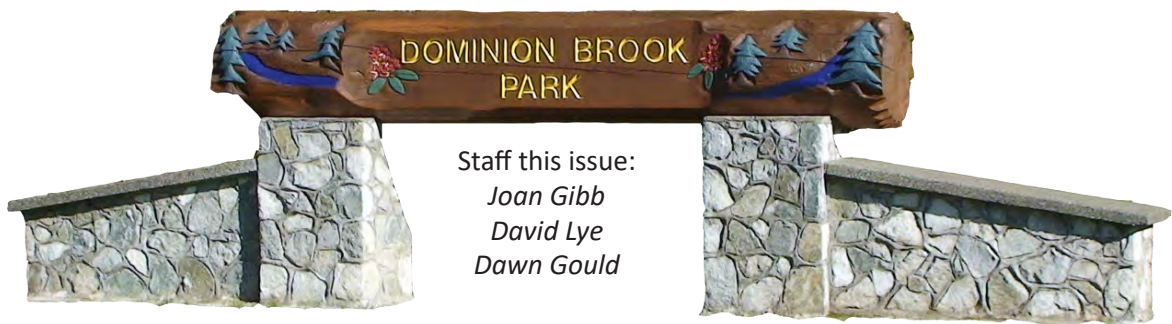
A large conifer with prehistoric-appearing needles. A native to China, it is a picturesque conifer which grows to 30' with a 20' spread. C.I. Glauca is hardier than *C. lanceolata* with lovely grey/blue needles which may turn red bronze in cold winters.

Its cones (1 1/2') are globose and pendent looking somewhat like artichokes. The bark is a rich reddish brown with an interesting texture but often missed as the lower branches remain into old age.

A seldom seen conifer with a fascinating growth habit to add to our wonderful collection of trees and shrubs.



Once again, the Society thanks all volunteers who help out in the park.  
Your helping hands make a difference!



For more information on Dominion Brook Park, please visit [www.dominionbrookpark.ca/](http://www.dominionbrookpark.ca/)  
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