

Volume 51



August 2017

HAPPENINGS IN THE PARK

Already many organised activities have taken place in the Park this year

- In April dozens of children enjoyed the annual Easter Egg Hunt.
- On April 22nd, 25 members of the Victoria Horticulture Society Tour were given a tour by Joan Gibb and then stayed for a picnic and more in-depth chat about the Park, its history and its plants.



- In May, 70 West Highland Terriers, their human companions, and two pipers took part in the annual Vancouver Island Westie Walk.
- In April and May, Ian Cameron gave three tours. Ian is taking over Joan's role as tour guide. Ian toured a garden club from Duncan, a group from the Peninsula Elder College, and a group of women who meet weekly to do something interesting.

And there are more activities to come

- Picnic in the Park, Saturday August 12, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring a picnic to the Park and enjoy a Canada 150 celebration with live local entertainment. Presented by the District of North Saanich and the Mary Winspear Centre.
- Flavour Trail - Sunday, August 20. Tours at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon. Meet at the Park sign on East Saanich Road and learn about the Park's history and the amazing number of plants that have grown to maturity over the last century.
- Official opening of the Rhododendron Ravine and trail will be in early October. Our website will have up-to-date information for the opening ceremony. Hope you can join us for this historic occasion.

RHODENDRON RAVINE TO OPEN THIS FALL

In our April newsletter we reported that our fundraising efforts had been rewarded with two grants of \$10,000 each, from the Greater Victoria Savings Credit Union Legacy Fund and the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. With the addition of donations from our members and membership renewals we were confident that we could complete the South Trail Project.

Thank you to all our volunteers who help out in the park!

We still required an additional \$50,000 to complete the final phase, the restoration of the uppermost section of the streambed. We approached North Saanich Council and we are pleased to report that Council supported our proposal and will provide the \$50,000 that we require. This will complete the stabilization of the streambed and construction of the trail system in the ravine.

Our suppliers, Corix Water Products and NATs Nursery have confirmed pricing and availability of materials. Benson Excavation is ready to go, and our engineer Craig Sutherland will provide advice as required. Peninsula Rock Products have generously offered to donate all the rock we will need and the Municipality will provide trucking and on-site supervision. Work in the ravine will commence mid-August and should be completed by mid-September. The re-opening of the ravine this fall marks a milestone for the Friends of Dominion Brook Park and a fitting contribution to the Canada 150 celebrations.

Thank you to all of our members for their continued support.

FEATURED PLANT

Picea Breweriana

Is perhaps the most beautiful spruce, it is native to the mountains of northwest California and southwest Oregon. It grows up to 40 meters with wonderful curtains of dark drooping side shoots hanging from each downward sweeping branch, giving it a unique and very beautiful form. The cones are green at first later turning to purple.

It is rare in the wild and in gardens. More tender than most spruces, it requires much moisture and cool temperatures.



WHOSE EGGS ARE THESE?

It is common to encounter wildlife in Dominion Brook Park; for example, turtles, otters or waterfowl in the pond, a racoon scampering across the grass, great horned owls nesting in the trees, red-tailed hawks soaring over the open areas and many song birds. Recently, volunteers discovered a nest made by an opportunistic bird who took advantage of a man-made structure in the Park to use as a place to build a nest. Four small speckled eggs were spotted first and later a chick was seen. The bird species has not been confirmed.



VOLUNTEER WORKING BEES

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