

SVIMS

South Vancouver Island Mycological Society

Meeting and Presentation

When: Thursday, Sep 6, 2018, 7:00 pm

Where: Pacific Forestry Centre
506 West Burnside Road
Saanich, BC



What: Talk on

"Update of the Long-term Mycological Survey of Observatory Hill"

Interesting tidbits from the fungi survey that started on Saanich's Observatory Hill in winter of 2004 and that has been running with the same sampling intensity for over 13 years. This significant project, carried out by Oluna and Adolf Ceska and supported over the years by the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, GOERT, and some anonymous donors, is probably the most intensive long-term mycological survey in North America. Since November of 2004, Oluna has visited Observatory Hill more than 450 times and has recorded around 1,400 species of macrofungi. The project is documented by over 6,000 herbarium collections donated to the UBC herbarium.

Who: Oluna Ceska

Adolf and Oluna Ceska arrived in Canada in 1969, just after invasion of their home country of Czechoslovakia country by Warsaw Pact forces. After a period of study at the University of Victoria, the Ceskas, unable to return to their previous academic lives, settled down in Victoria. Adolf became curator of vascular plants at the Royal BC Museum. Oluna worked as an associate researcher in cellular biology at the University of Victoria. She returned to her original academic discipline of mycology in the late 1990s.

Adolf and Oluna were part of the group that founded SVIMS. Oluna has been involved in a multitude of research efforts in chemistry and mycology over the years. She has contributed to the discovery of several new fungal species, including some that were found or documented on Observatory Hill. *Cortinarius ceskae* is named in Oluna's honour and UBC offers the annual Oluna and Adolf Ceska Award in Mycology to a graduate student in mycology.