



An Invitation

from Ray Lett

Here's a challenge for you. Write a story about an unusual photograph of a tree apparently consuming a light standard on Hopesmore Drive in Saanich. I started writing a reflection on the demise of the embrace between close friends during the pandemic using the photo as an example, but my story seemed to have no clear ending.

Then I thought about imaging a fictitious conversation between the tree and the light standard. For example:

"It's cold ever since they replaced the warming incandescent lamps with LED ones," complained the light standard.

"Let me try and warm you," replied Willow as she gracefully entwined herself around the light standard.

"Cold is not the only hazard today," continued Willow. "My roots are continually being disturbed by construction and there's always the threat of root virus."

This seemed a good start for a story especially having a reference to a virus, but writing about a relationship between a tree and a light standard seemed a little bizarre. So, perhaps for the next *Prescription* someone can think of story about this photograph.

(Reprinted from St. Luke's Prescription – Christmas 2020)