



WHONNOCK NEWS

Spring 2021

FROM THE BOARD

Spring is almost here, the days are getting longer, the vaccine roll-out has started, with some of our more senior community members in line now to get their jab – doesn't that mean things are looking up? Of course, we don't know where we go from here, when restrictions on gatherings will be lifted, and when (or whether!) everything will return to "normal."

The usual activities of the Whonnock Community are still on hold – again no Easter Egg Hunt this year, unfortunately. Nevertheless, life goes on, and what some of us have noticed this past year, the "year of the pandemic," is that neighbours in Whonnock have perhaps come together a little more than before. Socially distanced, we talk across the street or across the fence, always asking: how are you? Is everyone in your family safe? And even: is there anything you need? Isn't that positive?

As the weather gets warmer, we will see increased use of our local parks, not only from our own residents, which will also mean more traffic on the main roads. The City is in the process of "upgrading" some park facilities (see reports on Thornhill Trails and Thornhill Park Playground).

As to the Highway 7 widening, the preliminary design was published earlier and the deadline for public comments has passed. But it may be a while yet before construction starts. If you want to get updates on the project, you can sign up directly at: <engage.gov.bc.ca/highway7widening266-287>

As we go into the second Covid spring and summer, we should all try to stay safe, follow the rules set out by the authorities, and continue to be patient. Let's not forget how lucky we are to live here, surrounded by nature 24/7, year-round. On this note, with best wishes for everybody's well-being, on behalf of the Board of the Whonnock Community Association,

Helmi Braches



BECOME A MEMBER!

Membership in the Whonnock Community Association is free. All you have to do to become a member is contact secretary Helmi Braches and let her have your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address (if applicable).

You may use the form on the back and mail it, call Helmi (604-462-8942), or send an e-mail to webmaster@whonnock.ca

Registration forms are also at the post office.

WCA PUMP HOUSE SIGN

Call 604 462 8942 if you'd like to see an event posted on the sign. Leave a message if you get the answering machine and your call will be returned pronto.

BYRNES BURSARY

The Byrnes Bursary program grants amounts of up to \$2,000 per four-month period to students from east Maple Ridge enrolled in a college, university, trade school or other post-secondary establishment with a proven record of good performance in post-secondary education.

For more about the bursary program and the terms of reference of the Byrnes Bursary visit: <whonnock.ca> and select Byrnes Bursary.

Apply at any time. No deadline.

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE PROGRAMS AT WHONNOCK

Details, dates, costs and times of the following programs held at Whonnock venues are published in the *Maple Ridge PRC Guide*, spring 2021

LEARN TO PADDLE – 9Y-13Y

Learn proper posture, balance, steering, stroke Technique and basic water-safety skills in both kayaks and canoes at Whonnock Lake. Instruction given by Ridge Canoe and Kayak Club coaches and all equipment is included.

LEARN TO KAYAK – 19Y AND UP

Learn proper posture, balance, steering and stroke techniques and basic water-safety skills in kayaks on Whonnock Lake. Instruction given by Ridge Canoe and Kayak Club coaches and all equipment is included.

HATHA YOGA – 16Y AND UP

This alignment-oriented class will emphasize posture and breath while entering, holding, and leaving the posture. It uses postures (asanas) and stretches in combination with the breath while holding the poses to develop flexibility and relaxation. An excellent way to calm the mind and reduce stress.

MORNING FLOW YOGA – 16Y AND UP

Start your day off on the right path. Wake up your body, settle your mind and find your breath in this Yoga class for all levels. Enjoy a flowing practice designed to help you find foundational strength, freedom of movement and a connection to your breath.

YOGA FUNDAMENTALS – 16Y AND UP

Learn the building blocks and fundamentals of a yoga practice. Learn yogic breathing, class etiquette, and classic poses that promote alignment, strength and flexibility. You will learn to release tension through meditation and relaxation techniques. A 'must do' course to ensure a safe injury free yoga practice.

PILATES BY THE LAKE – 16Y AND UP

A play on traditional Pilates, this class will work the entire body from head to toe. Strengthen, lengthen and tone your way to a stronger core, increased balance, flexibility and better posture. Pilates will sculpt your way to a new body. Grab your mat & join us!



RIDGE CANOE & KAYAK CLUB

The Ridge Canoe Kayak Club started in 1982 as an Olympic Racing club. Over its 38-year history the club has attracted members of all skill levels from beginners to Olympic hopefuls.

The club has a wide inventory of equipment ranging from stable beginner canoes and kayaks to dragon boats, sleek racing canoes and kayaks and lots in between. With programs for recreation and serious training alike, the club offers something for all levels and interests in paddling.

Our winter programs are coming to the end and we are getting ready for our wide range of spring and summer programs. We are a great way to exercise outside in a fun, COVID-safe environment.

Spring Programs registration is now open for U11 Canoe/Kayak, Junior Development, High Performance, U23 Fitness and Masters (35+). For more information check out our web site <rckc.ca> or the Maple Ridge Recreation Program Booklet.

If you like you can contact <programs@rckc.ca> or <head-coach@rckc.ca>



WHONNOCK WALKERS

Join us on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at Whonnock Lake Centre parking lot for a friendly one-hour walk. Call Britta at 604 462-9863 for more information.

WHONNOCK TOPS LOCAL #4522

TOPS is a nonprofit organization that helps members to improve their health and well-being. We meet at the Wildwood Fellowship Church Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Come and visit with us - we have fun and successful weight loss. Phone Carolyn, 604-462-1213, or Lori Button, 604-463-7355, for more info.

For information on other chapters in Maple Ridge phone Thelma at 604-467-5601.



THIRD ANNUAL WHONNOCK COMMUNITY GIANT PUMPKIN CONTEST

Planning has begun for the 3rd annual Whonnock Community Giant Pumpkin Contest. Trevor Halliday won last year's contest (for the second year in a row) with a pumpkin weighing in at 434 pounds and Bruce Gabara took second place with a 244 pounder. Our dead last (and smallest pumpkin) winner was Laura Evans with a tiny little pumpkin weighing in at just .5 oz.

We were very lucky to have been able to hold our weigh-in at Whonnock Lake just days before the province announced that all public events would be cancelled. We sincerely hope to be able to hold a community weigh-in again this year... however only time will tell.

Competition is heating up and rumor has it that some people have been studying all winter long at how best to grow a giant pumpkin...and vow that a new winner will be crowned this year. If you would like to participate in a fun, free and slightly competitive (ok...totally competitive) community building event, perhaps you should try your hand at growing a giant pumpkin this year.

Watch for local updates on details of the contest and where you can pick up your Free giant pumpkin plant (early May) for the 3rd annual Whonnock Community Giant Pumpkin Contest. <whonnockgiantpumpkincontest@gmail.com>



WHONNOCK WEAVERS AND SPINNERS

This past year has been quite the year...hasn't it?

We have all had many changes to our lives and have had to endure much uncertainty. Here is hoping that we all will have the vaccine soon and then life won't be quite so challenging!

Maya Angelou, an American poet & civil rights activist stated that "We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty." Here is hoping that each and every one of you emerges on the other side with that beauty.

Like many groups, our guild has been meeting on Zoom twice a month. Not quite the same as in-person meetings but we started a PowerPoint Show and Tell presentation at each meeting and that makes it a lot easier to see what our members have been working on. We have a program each meeting that is member driven with the most recent program talking about handweaving.

We have also been working on a spinning program where technical information is shared and discussed by email. This helps newer spinners learn aspects of handspinning and is also a reminder of how techniques are accomplished for those who have been handspinning for a while.

Quite a few of our members are also taking online courses or listening to talks from instructors in different parts of the world. One positive thing that has happened with the pandemic is that there are many opportunities to learn from people who you might never learn from in-person.

We are sincerely hoping that we will be holding our 2021 Open House Exhibition & Sale which is scheduled for Sunday, November 28, 2021 but we will absolutely be following the provincial guidelines that are in place at the time.

All of the Whonnock Weavers & Spinners Guild members hope that you have a wonderful spring and summer! We certainly could all use it.

We always welcome new members so if you are interested in the fibre arts and wish to join us, simply contact us. If you would like more information, please phone Marie at 604-462-9059

Our website is at <www.wsg.ca>.

We can also be found on Facebook <[WhonnockWeaversandSpinnersGuild](https://www.facebook.com/WhonnockWeaversandSpinnersGuild)> and Instagram <[whonnockweaversandspinners](https://www.instagram.com/whonnockweaversandspinners)>





RUSKIN COMMUNITY HALL

28395 96th Avenue, Maple Ridge, BC, V2W 1L3

Phone or text 604-462-9739. Email <general - ruskinhall@yahoo.ca>

Facebook: Ruskin Community Hall; Website - www.ruskinhall.com

The Ruskin Hall is located at the corner of 284th Street and 96 Avenue. Hall meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

The hall is available for rental at hourly or nightly rates for small events, classes, or meetings. For rental information contact our Booking Agent by phone at 604-462-9739 or bookings@ruskinhall.com, or www.ruskinhall.com.

Kim Rondquist continues to offer Hatha Flow Yoga classes on Wednesday nights from 7:30 to 9:00. Classes are for all levels and everyone is welcome. For information contact Kim at 604-462-4284.

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are every Monday evening from 7:30 to 8:30. For information contact Dave at 604-462-7616.

Check out our website for upcoming events. ruskinhall.com.

THORNHILL HALL

The Thornhill Hall was only opened for a couple of months this past year and it is still under lockdown by the Health Ministry.

We have interested parties wanting to rent the hall, but COVID 19 regulations do not allow the Hall to be rented. This has resulted in the loss of income to pay for utilities and insurance. Insurance is very expensive for our little Hall as the City requires us to carry a \$5,000,000 liability coverage.

The Thornhill Community Association is left with deciding how long the Hall can operate without any income. There is no paid staff, it is all operated by volunteers. There is currently no relief from the Provincial Government for community Halls. We have been informed that the Thornhill Hall is one of the only remaining community halls in B.C.

We are currently renewing our lease agreement with the City. The Thornhill Community Association may need to reach out to the community to help us through this time.

For inquiries regarding future rentals call Fran Norman @ 604-462-7869.

The 2021 Thornhill Plant swap will be online this year just as it was last year because of Covid restrictions.

The swap is set for Saturday May 1st and Sunday May 2nd. Plants or other garden related items being offered or requested can be listed on our home page (to be set up in a couple of weeks).

Pick up for plants can be arranged by contacting the person offering them. Plants may also dropped off at my home which will be a general pick up site.

Anyone interested may contact me at phone # 604 462 8778 or email norscot4@netscape.net.

Happy gardening everyone !!! Joan Duncan





It has been a relatively quiet year, but we have continued on with the testing program. We have experienced some very wet weather along with some snow and cool temperatures. Klaus and I have measured everyone's deep wells, records have been kept and the wells have been very consistent. This is the first summer and Fall that we never hauled any water even though our gardening area had increased somewhat.

TAPS (Thornhill Aquifer Protection Study) was formed in 2006 during the OCP public hearings when a group of residents within the ALR and Urban Reserve as well as concerned residents outside of our community, worked together during the six day public hearing to protect our drinking water on the Grant Hill Aquifer. The Urban Reserve designation continues to create divisions between those who wish to develop our watershed and those who wish to protect it. Regardless of which position is taken the cost of bringing City water is prohibitive to the tax payer.

The community fought hard to have protections in place in the OCP that require the triggers as outlined in Policy 3-24 which must be met before urban development can occur. In the meantime, we continue to educate new and existing residents and the City, regarding the importance of protecting and respecting this unique and valuable resource.

In the last six months Parks and Recreation staff conducted a survey regarding mountain biking and unsanctioned trail building on the aquifer. On Feb. 16th, Staff presented Council with the outcome of the survey and their proposals for the future use on the treed watershed. The most prominent user group, the Fraser Valley Mountain Bikers Association, had built a network of unsanctioned trails on Grant Hill. Staff suggested placement of toilets, creating a staging area, consulting with the Association on future proposed uses and creating a Thornhill Grind. There was hardly a mention regarding the concerns about the protection of the aquifer. This network of biking trails have impacted our forested watershed. At the Staff level, there is a lack of understanding regarding the importance of educating users and the report never prioritized the need for the City and all users to protect this forested area for the community.

The lack of consultation with other user groups including hikers, horse riders using the sanctioned Haney Horsemen trails, TAPS and the Thornhill Community Association, is concerning. Education and respect for this area is required. Campfires in the forest must be prohibited.

Council unanimously sent the report back to Staff and may be reviewing their revisions later this year.

We hope that as the year progresses, we will slowly return to some of the events and gatherings that helped to make our communities special. Choose a weekday, take a WALK on one of the horse trails in the forested watershed and experience the old growth forest, the waterways and the forest floor. Breathe the air, experience the peace, enjoy the new spring buds emerging and feel the sun's rays filtering light into the forest and the tree canopy.

Go north on 256th street off 100th until you reach a gate. Walk further in past the gate and enter one of the trails.

This is the very special Grant Hill watershed. When you are in it, you may want to protect it.

Betty & Klaus von Hardenberg

C/O TAPS (Thornhill Aquifer Protection Study)

THORNHILL PARK PLAYGROUND

The City is planning to relocate the present playground area in Thornhill Park to a larger area south of the existing tennis court, beside the Thornhill Hall parking area.

The Thornhill Community Association has expressed concern about safety, liability and conflicts of the use of limited parking space, in particular when there are events at the Hall.

TAPS is worried about the risk of damage to the nearby telemetry equipment which measures and transmits the well levels daily.

The City has asked for questions, comments, suggestions and concerns on this proposed project. Please email Peter at <pwarmerdam@mapleridge.ca> preferably before March 31st



Klaus & Betty von Hardenberg

Phone/Fax: 604.462.9244

E-mail: info@vonhardenbergcandles.com

9730 Spilsbury Street

Maple Ridge, BC Canada V2W 1K7



JUNICHI TANAKA, born in Japan, established a ceramics studio at Whonnock in 1998.

His work has been widely accepted all over Canada.

Ceramics is not his only passion. He has climbed major mountains and he is a poet.



HOLY SPIRIT ANGLICAN CHURCH

27123 River Road in Whonnock

Visit our website <holyspiritanglican.ca>

Church - phone: 604-462-7933

Email: holyspiritanglican@gmail.com

Currently all activities are online.

Future event may be in the church, outside or online, depending on public health directives. Please check our website for updates <holyspiritanglican.ca>.

Ongoing If you are anxious or lonely during these stressful Covid times, or have a car park one-to-one coffee break, Rev. Miranda would be happy to talk or meet with you. Call her cell 1-604-860-5258.

Our centennial projects are well underway. We have already exceeded 100 trees planted, masks sewn, cheer packages for seniors, and t-shirts for migrant farm workers. We are still working on these and other '100' projects outlined on the Holy Spirit blog: <hswhonnock.blogspot.com/2020/04/centennial-celebration-for-anglican.html>

We invite you to participate.

COMING EVENTS

Easter Sunday, April 4 at 10:00 am – and other events marking Holy Week – ask for a 'zoom' link to participate online by emailing – holyspiritanglican.whonnock@gmail.com

Gardening Tuesdays at 10:00 am – If you love gardening and could spare some time at your convenience to help tend our flower beds and grounds during our centennial year, please contact our garden coordinator, Mimi Hunfeld, at mimi-hunfeld@shaw.ca

The new Bishop is coming on Father's Day! The Rt Rev John Stephens will join us on Sunday, June 20 (maybe in person, maybe online) for his first parish visit since being installed as Bishop of the Diocese of New Westminster.



Canada Day Service July 1st – at 9:00 am More about this soon.

Summer - Watch our website for events we hope to host this summer as part of our centennial celebrations.

November 2021 – Celebration of the centennial of our beautiful church building.

Thanks for your help!

Sock Tree - Our outdoor Christmas Tree was beautifully laden, decorated with 100 items of warm winter wear for those who need some warmth. Thanks to our neighbours for pitching in!

Cheer Packages for Seniors- Through a grant from the federal government program, "New Horizons for Seniors," support from United Way, and the generous discount from Save-On Maple Ridge on the purchase of gift cards, Sue's Copy in Mission and others, Holy Spirit put together 112 cheer packages for neighbourhood seniors to brighten the isolation caused by Covid restrictions. The recipients have been expressing their thanks and appreciation.



ONE BOOK WHONNOCK

The committee is currently trying to decide what our next read should be. We hope (or are sure!) that we can have an open-air gathering again to discuss the book. Last summer this worked perfectly – we were seated in a private garden, appropriately distanced from each other, and enjoyed the opportunity to talk about what we'd read, and just socialized. We'll make it happen again this year! So, stay tuned for more information.

The contact for One Book Whonnock still is: Helmi Braches 604-462-8942.



DRIFTWOOD BAY GALLERY

27170 108th Avenue

Unique artisan-made birdhouses and rustic furniture.

Gallery is open year around.

Contact: Marcel Merks.

Phone: 604-362-2112

Web site: <driftwoodbay.com>



WILDWOOD FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

People matter to God and they matter to us!

In our world dominated by chaos and uncertainty, Jesus remains the unchanging source of truth and peace. We believe the God who designed and created the universe is not silent, and has a design and purpose for each one of us. We believe He hears and answers our prayers, reaching down and touching our lives with His love, forgiveness and grace. Through His Word, the Bible, God gives us His blueprint for life, giving us direction and confidence as we seek Him and follow His ways.

All 'in person' Sunday Church Services are ON HOLD due to BC Health Orders to all churches in BC. If any of this changes, it will be posted on this webpage as well as our Facebook page.

MEANWHILE, we are meeting at 10:30 AM Sundays ONLINE for Sunday Church Services using 'Google Meet' from our homes. You are invited to join in. For info visit our website, www.wildwoodfellowship.com

Cobs bread and buns are still available! - If you are in need or know someone who is, Cobbs bread is available free at the church on Wednesday mornings from 10 AM to 12 Noon. THIS HAS NOT BEEN SUSPENDED.

Also, please reach out to us if you are struggling and need help with groceries. Go to the basement door, wearing a mask. Hand sanitizer is provided.

If you are not able to get to the church on Wednesday mornings and would like some bread, call Pastor Arnold 604-287-6963 or John 778-895-1254.



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Membership form

Name(s):

.....

.....

Address:

.....

Phone: (604)

E-mail:

- Choose membership type
- Individual Family
- Corporate

Individual = one vote
 Family = two votes per household
 Corporate = one vote for societies or corporations.

Membership

Everyone living in Whonnock is considered to be a member of the Whonnock Community Association.

By being registered as a member for more than two months you get voting rights at our meetings.

Between September and May we meet every third Thursday of the month at 7:30 at Whonnock Lake Centre.

Membership is free. Just complete the membership form and submit it for registration.

For membership information call Helmi at 604 462 8942. Or e-mail to <webmaster@whonnock.ca>.



Whonnock Community Association
 PO Box 134
 Whonnock BC V2W 1V9

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