



Whonnock Community Association WHONNOCK NEWS

Spring 2024

OBITUARY



Fred Braches

8 October 1930 – 1 February 2024

Fred was born in Indonesia, went to school and business college in the Netherlands, and then worked in international shipping. In the 1960s, he was the representative of a Dutch shipping line on the west coast of South America, living first in Colombia, then in Chile, then in Peru. It was in South America that he met his wife, Helmi. After two years in Hong Kong, at that time the head office of Fred's company, he and Helmi immigrated to Canada. In 1985, they moved to Whonnock – and what a change that was! It took some years to become “acclimatized,” but by 1995, when Fred retired from his work, he had absorbed enough of the local spirit from Brian Byrnes to plunge right into local history. His starting point was the result of a history project sponsored by the Whonnock Community Association.

Fred's way of doing history was research, research, research, and his aim was to establish the truth. When he felt he had exhausted a topic, he published his findings in his *Whonnock Notes*, a series of occasional papers, which are all available on the Internet. For quite a number of years he produced calendars with historical photographs. He also wrote articles in the Looking Back column in the Maple Ridge–Pitt Meadows News, which he later published in a small volume.

At some point Fred got side-tracked by the legend of Slumach and the Pitt Lake gold. Here as well, he wanted to find out the truth, and he came to the conclusion that the connection of this old Indian with gold was a hoax, created by the press years after his death. Fred's take on the story was published by Heritage House as *In Search of Pitt Lake Gold*.

The work on Slumach put Fred in connection with a number of gold dreamers and eventually landed him on the TV reality show *The Curse of the Frozen Gold*, released in 2015. Another TV show followed, *Deadman's Curse*, of which the third episode is being shot now. Working with the TV people was a completely new experience for Fred, which he much enjoyed.

Fred loved life in Whonnock. His interest in local history brought him into contact with many people. He will be remembered by many, and his work will live on.

The Whonnock Community Association would like to celebrate the life of Fred Braches, as we say goodbye to a good friend, we are forever grateful for all your hard work and dedication to our community. It was an honour to know you and to work together with you.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Presented by the Whonnock Community Association. As usual our Easter Egg Hunt will be on Easter Sunday, March 31st, at Whonnock Lake Centre.

The hunt will start at 11:00 AM sharp, rain or shine!

The Easter Bunny is looking for volunteers to do some very rewarding assignments for the event. If you are willing to hop along please email Jenise Paton at jenisepaton@hotmail.com.



THORNHILL COMMUNITY HALL

The Thornhill Community Hall was rented steadily this past year and the bookings for the spring are coming along as well. Many families and organizations are now booking one year in advance. Community Halls that provide a space from small family events to weddings at a reasonable rate are hard to find. This Hall seems to fill the sweet spot with the maximum allowable being 100 guests. This Hall is nestled among the tall conifers in the park, which offer a beautiful, quiet backdrop to any event.

For further information please refer to the website at www.thornhillhall.ca. For bookings call Fran Norman at 604-462-7869.

FIRST WHONNOCK SCOUTS

1st Whonnock Scouts has a Beaver Colony (ages 5-7). Other sections can be opened if we have adults willing and able to volunteer.



If interested in joining us, either youth or adult, please email 1stwhonnockscoutgroup@gmail.com or check out Scouts Canada online at www.scouts.ca.

RIDGE CANOE AND KAYAK CLUB

For information please refer to rkc.ca

COME PADDLE WITH US!!



TAPS (Thornhill Aquifer Protection Study)

The Thornhill Aquifer Protection Study is entering its 18th year of water monitoring on the Grant Hill Aquifer. We have appreciated all the members that have continued to have their wells monitored during this time.

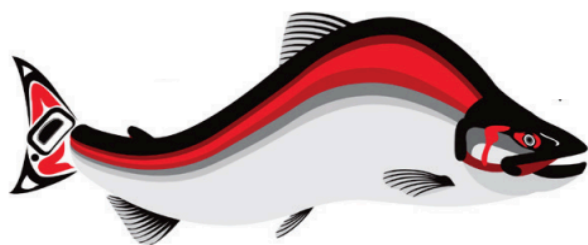
All the residents who are dependent on the aquifer for clean drinking water and for agricultural purposes have been integral to the study and protection of this important bedrock aquifer.

This past Fall we met with the Environment Minister George Heyman and MLA Bob D'Eith in our steadfast goal to have our Provincial Government protect the Crown Lands that house part of our aquifer. They asked to meet with Klaus and I. We walked them through the trails in the Crown Land and had some very frank discussions regarding our request. It takes a lot of time and perseverance, but we have always been up for the challenge. We will keep you posted. Throughout our very dry season, even as many shallow wells suffered, the drilled wells made it through without much change. Thankfully. We are expecting another dry summer season and wildfires are expected to be even more of a problem.

This Fall, we traveled throughout the Okanagan concentrating on the North Shuswap. After seeing first hand the wildfire devastation and learning from many residents who fought the fires, the experience had a sobering impact on how real the threat is.

The need for more awareness, education and employing sound wildfire prevention practices by residents is becoming obvious. We need to protect our forests as without them, we will have no water.

Water conservation and due diligence are key.
On behalf of TAPS,
Betty & Klaus von Hardenberg



BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WHONNOCK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Brad Jennings - President
Mary Blackstock - Treasurer
Helmi Braches - Secretary
Noreen Woods - Director at Large
Heather Anderson - Director at Large

MEETINGS: THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH
7:30 PM AT WHONNOCK LAKE CENTRE

THE WCA BURSARY

To apply for the Whonnock Community Association bursary, please check with your school counselor during the fall semester. For those students interested in applying for our Bursary – we have the following criteria:

- (1) You must have lived in the Whonnock area for at least two years.
 - (2) We look at a student's marks which must show a commitment to furthering their education at college, trade school or university.
 - (3) We assess financial need.
 - (4) We look for a student's history of volunteering either in the community, the school or other worthy cause.
- Good luck to all applicants.

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 go to whonnock.ca, click Whonnock Community Association and select "bursaries."

DAYS TO REMEMBER

WCA Meetings

Third Thursday of the month, 7:30 pm at Whonnock Lake Centre. (Except June, July and August)

Ruskin Hall Meetings

Second Tue of the month, 7 pm at Ruskin Hall
100th Anniversary Celebration Oct 19, 1 to 4 pm

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday March 31st 11 am sharp



Anglican Church Silent Auction

April 15 @ 9 am to April 18 @ 8 pm. Access through
www.holyspiritanglican.ca

Whonnock Elementary Spring Market

Sunday April 21st 10 am to 3 pm

Art Studio Tour

Mother's Day Weekend May 11 & 12, 10 am to 4 pm

Anglican Church 'Romp around Rolley'

Saturday September 21 at 10 am at Rolley Lake

WHONNOCK WEAVERS AND SPINNERS

On the last Sunday of November, 2023, the Whonnock Weavers and Spinners held their 42 nd annual Exhibit and Sale at Whonnock Lake Centre. It was a beautiful day, the hall was filled with an abundance of handwoven, handknitted and handspun articles, as well as articles from a select group of guest artists. Once again, it was a successful day, and we send a heartfelt thanks to all who attended, and especially to those who purchased our handmade articles. We are already in the early stages of planning for our 43 rd edition of this popular day. We would like to thank all Whonnockians who attended and hopefully enjoyed themselves. We send a special thank you to the Whonnock Community Association, who have been especially supportive of our efforts since we began holding our sale at Whonnock Lake Centre.



And here is a bit of local history – the Whonnock Weavers and Spinners were the first public group to rent the new hall. We held our sale there in November of 1987 but the



hall was not officially opened until July of 1988, so our roots in Whonnock go deep. We have been busy this spring with an emphasis on “Colour” at our meetings, and in our spinning and weaving. We are preparing for a very colourful presence at Country Fest this summer. We continue to meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 PM at St. John the Divine Church at the corner of Laity and River Road in Maple Ridge – a move we made during Covid, since we could not fulfill the requirements of Whonnock Lake Centre. Because we have members all the way from New Westminster to Maple Ridge, we have continued meeting there, but our hearts are still in Whonnock. We are a vibrant and growing group of fibre artists, and welcome anyone with the same “addiction”. If you wish further information, phone Marie at 604-462-9059 or visit our website at www.wwsg.ca or follow us on Facebook or Instagram.

BEARS!!!

They are still asleep at this time, but we know they’ll be back and visit our



backyards. The Whonnock Community Association has established a task force to help Whonnock residents learn how to live with bears in harmony. We will work together with the City and the Conservation Officer to present public programs – watch for details.

Meanwhile info on bear awareness can be found at
> <https://www.mapleridge.ca/322/WildSafeBC>
> <https://wildsafebc.com/learn/live/>



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 on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30. Everyone is welcome.

The hall is available for rental at hourly or nightly rates for small events, classes, or meetings. Capacity is 100 persons for banquet events or 125 persons for auditorium events. For rental information contact our Booking Agent at 604-462-9739, bookings@ruskinhall.com, or www.ruskinhall.com.

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

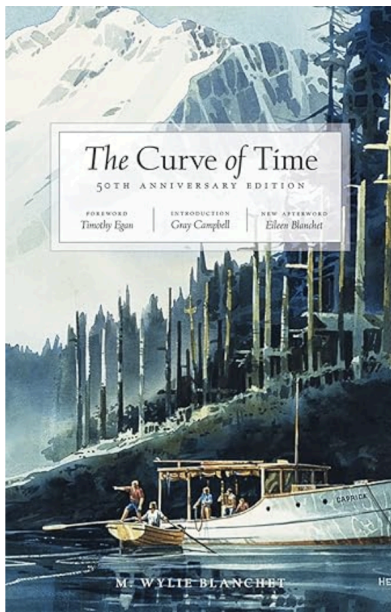
Check out our website for more upcoming events like a community potluck this spring and our 100th Anniversary Celebration on October 19, 2024, 1:00 – 4:00 pm. www.ruskinhall.com.



ONE BOOK WHONNOCK

Not quite a book club, but an opportunity for neighbors to meet and get to know each other over a book. We choose a title once or twice a year and come together to talk about it informally.

Our current project is *The Curve of Time*, by M. Wylie Blanchet. After the death of her husband in 1927, Muriel Blanchet took their five children on summer cruises along the BC coast, and it is these travels she writes about. It's a wonderful book – not only full of what they see, but also painting a glowing portrait of the author herself.



If you are interested in joining this reading project, please contact Helmi at braches@shaw.ca or 604-462-8942.



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we brought the tables to the
farm

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ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Anglican Church in Whonnock invites you to celebrate Easter on Sunday March 31 with a service at 3 pm at the church. Watch for details on the church website for Palm Sunday, Good Friday and other special events.



Worship at Holy Spirit is now every Sunday at 3 pm. Rev Miranda is also looking after a church in Port Moody so is there for worship on Sunday mornings. She will have office hours at the church Mondays and Wednesdays, and welcomes you to get in touch if you are stressed, lonely or just wanting to say hello. Please call 604-462-7933 beforehand to arrange a time.

The church supports the Maple Ridge Museum in organizing work-bees to clean up the gravestones at Whonnock Cemetery. Again this summer, there will be two work-bees. Whonnockians are invited to join. It is an opportunity to learn about past residents of Whonnock and hear some local stories while sprucing up this beautiful, secluded cemetery. The Anglican church opens its hall for access to water, toilets and a place to rest. Dates - Saturday July 20 and Saturday September 7 - 9 am to 12 noon both days. We hope to see you there. You must register at the museum website so they know how many will be coming - <http://mapleridgemuseum.org/headstone-preservation-project>.

Again this September, the Anglican Church will organize 'Romp Around Rolley' for good exercise benefitting a good cause. We have raised money for Ukraine Relief and for a school in Guatemala. Watch for news of time and date, and for the charity to be supported, and we welcome you to come along on a fun and worthwhile morning stroll.

The children of the church continue to raise money for good causes they select. At year-end, they split \$700+ between a quadruple amputee in Lebanon and a neighbor with cancer. Most were raised by a bottle drive. If you have some recyclables to contribute, please let the church know (604) 462-7933, and arrangements will be made to collect them.

Email: allsaintsinchrist@gmail.com



HEADSTONE PRESERVATION PROJECT [\(URL\)](#)

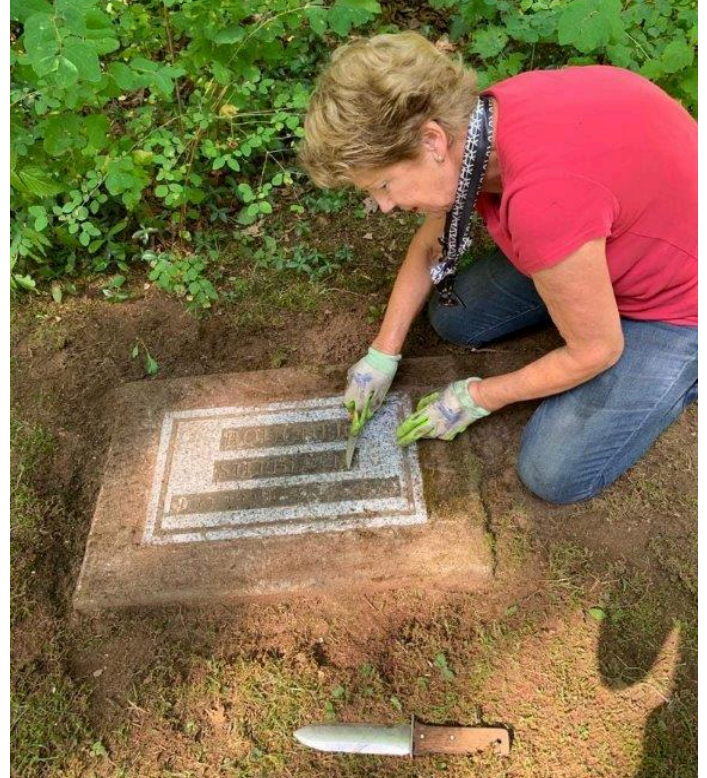


Tom Kerr cleaning gravestones in Whonnock Cemetery

As part of an annual program that the Maple Ridge Museum runs every summer, volunteers helped clean up headstones at Whonnock Cemetery.

Whonnock Cemetery

July 20 | 9:00AM-12:00PM
September 7 | 9:00AM-12:00PM



Mimi Hunfeld, one of the volunteers who helped at the cemetery clean up



Jean Davidson and Rev Miranda at the Whonnock Cemetery clean-up.

Whonnock Elementary

SPRING MARKET

27471 112 Ave, Maple Ridge

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

10 - 3

over 50 vendors raffle baskets
live entertainment food truck
food bank donations free admission
welcomed



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. His Web site is <ceramicsjunichi.com>

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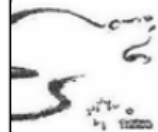
WHONNOCK LAKE CENTRE

LAKESIDE PRE-SCHOOL

604 462-0026

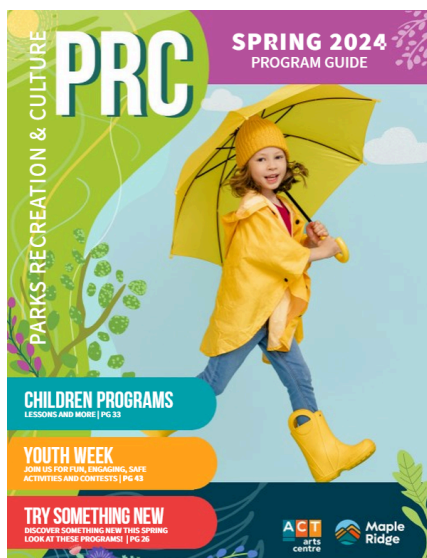
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26525, 98th Avenue, Maple Ridge, BC, V2W 1K3
Tel: 778-994-1580

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PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE PROGRAMS IN WHONNOCK

CANOE & KAYAK PROGRAMS

Learn to Paddle

Age: 8Y-14Y

Adult Learn to Kayak

Age: 19Y and up

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.

Instructor: RCKC

Location: Whonnock Lake Centre



Pilates by the Lake

Age: 16Y and up

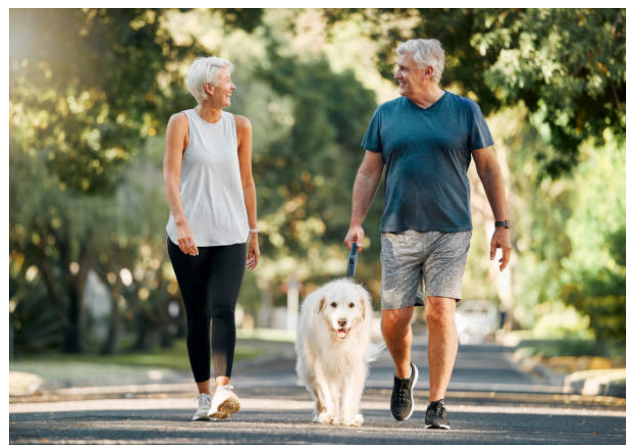
A play on traditional Pilates, this class will work the entire body from head to toe. Strengthen, lengthen and tone your way to a stronger core, increase balance, flexibility and better posture. Grab your mat & join us!

Instructor: Curtis Health

Location: Whonnock Lake Centre



Maple Ridge



WHONNOCK WALKERS

Join us on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings (9:15am) at Whonnock Lake Centre parking lot for a friendly one-hour walk. Call Britta at 604 462-9863 for more information.

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.

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

How many easter eggs did you find in the newsletter?