



Whonnock Community Association

WHONNOCK NEWS

Spring 2023

FROM THE BOARD

Welcome to the spring 2023 edition of the Whonnock News. Here is a brief update on what we dealt with over the past six months.

In October, together with the Thornhill Hall Association, we hosted two all candidates meetings at Whonnock Lake Centre, so all Whonnock residents had the opportunity to have a look at the candidates for the new Mayor and Council. The culvert at the corner of 112th Avenue and 280th Street, which had washed out in November 2021, was finally repaired and the street reopened for traffic in October. A nice job – well worth waiting for!

Also in October, a pumpkin contest, organized by Pascale Shaw and supported by the WCA, drew a good crowd and was a big success.

At the end of October, we hosted our annual dinner at which we honour the many volunteers who help making our community a better place. The event was well attended and, we dare say, enjoyed by all who came.

More than 100 people came to our Remembrance Day ceremony. Our thanks go to Dan Olivieri for again organizing and leading the ceremony. Students from Whonnock Elementary were also involved with speaking and laying a wreath. While the main purpose is, of course, remembering the fallen, it didn't hurt that a WCA member brought an era-appropriate military vehicle for display.

The City's Parks, Recreation and Culture department completed the draft of its 10-year Master Plan. We had an opportunity for input, and we will keep an eye out for any developments that concern us.

Highway 7 widening: Everyone must have noticed by now that something is stirring. Work is supposed to be "starting" in 2023.

The community well on 272nd Street has finally been repainted!

In February, Fred Braches received a commendation from the Maple Ridge Heritage Commission for his recent book *Whonnock: Pictures from the Past*. Congratulations, Fred!

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Presented by the Whonnock Community Association.

As usual our Easter Egg Hunt will be on Easter Sunday, April 9th, at Whonnock Lake Centre.

The hunt will start at 11:00 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 call **SHELLEY** at 604-462-1881.



Upcoming events include our traditional Easter Egg Hunt on April 9. A huge thank you to Shelley Popadiuk and her helpers for taking it on once again to organize this popular event.

One Book Whonnock – no date for the gathering has been set. More information in this newsletter.

And in closing one word about membership. If you are not yet a member of the Whonnock Community Association, please consider joining. It doesn't cost anything, and we don't expect anything from you. But you would get on our mailing list and would receive regular e-mail updates from us. So why wouldn't you want to become a member? We would love to hear from you.

Now let's hope that spring will come soon!

Best wishes from the WCA Board

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WHONNOCK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Brad Jennings - President
Bernard Bezuidenhout - Vice President
Mary Blackstock - Treasurer
Helmi Braches - Secretary
Noreen Woods - Director

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

BECOME A MEMBER!

Membership in the Whonnock Community Association is free.

Application forms are at the post office and can also be downloaded from our website whonnock.ca. Click Whonnock Community Association and select "membership."

If that does not work for you, contact secretary Helmi Braches at 604-462-8942 and let her have your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address (if applicable). Or send an e-mail to webmaster@whonnock.ca

THE WCA BURSARY

To apply for the Whonnock Community Association bursary, please check with your school counsellor 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 of the Byrnes Bursary go to whonnock.ca, click Whonnock Community Association and select "bursaries."

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.

ONE BOOK WHONNOCK

Not quite a book club, but an opportunity for neighbours 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.

We do not have a fixed membership – everyone interested may sign up for a particular book.

The current book is *WHONNOCK AND RUSKIN: LOOKING BACK*, a collection of contributions to the "Looking Back" column in the *Maple Ridge News* by Fred Braches and more short pieces on our local history.

Interested? Call Helmi at 604-462-8942.



WHONNOCK GIANT PUMPKIN CONTEST

The 5th annual contest is tentatively scheduled for Sunday October 15th at 1:00 pm.

Free Giant Pumpkin will once again be grown by The Rainbow Eggs Farm and available to be picked up in May.

Seeds from the winning pumpkin will also be available to purchase, with all proceeds going to Children's Hospital.

Joanne and Pascale are excited to be co-organizing this fun and free community event.

Please watch for more details on FaceBook or email <Whonnockgiantpumpkincontest@telus.net> for more details.

Donations welcomed and volunteers appreciated.

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 Tuesday of the month, 7:00 pm at Ruskin Hall

Annual Easter Egg Hunt (page 1)

Sunday April 9th 11:00 sharp

Anglican Church Silent Auction

April 17th to April 21st (page 7)

Whonnock Elementary Spring Market

Sunday May 7th 10:00 am to 3:00 pm (page 8)

Arts Studio Tour

May 13 and 14 (page 5 - Soren Isbrand and others)



COME PADDLE WITH US!!



RIDGE CANOE KAYAK CLUB

The Ridge Canoe Kayak Club has just completed our winter “off-season” training and is gearing up for our busy summer recreational and competitive season.

RCKC offers many recreational programs for our community at beautiful Whonnock Lake. We are running a full slate of one-day school camps for every school day in May and June.

These camps will give about 1000 students from Maple Ridge, Mission, Pitt Meadows and Coquitlam a full day of on-water canoe and kayak experience at Whonnock Lake.

Watch for our full slate of week-long summer programs in Maple Ridge's *PRC Guide*. Information and registration for summer camps is available online at mapleridge.ca.

Registration is also open for our Junior Development, High Performance and Masters programs. More information on these programs is available at rckc.ca.

You can also contact our head coach at headcoach@rckc.ca for further information on how to register.



PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE PROGRAMS IN WHONNOCK

Details, dates, costs and times of the following programs held at Whonnock venues are published in the *Maple Ridge PRC Guide*, spring program guide 2023.

HATHA YOGA

Age: 16Y and up

This alignment-oriented class emphasizes posture and breath. It uses poses and stretches in combination with the breath that will develop and increase flexibility and relaxation. An excellent way to calm the mind and connect with your body. Please bring your own mat.

Instructor: Curtis Health

Location: Whonnock Lake Centre

LEARN TO PADDLE

Age: 8Y-14Y

Learn the proper posture, balance, steering, stroke technique and basic water safety skills in kayaks on Whonnock Lake. Instruction is provided by Ridge Canoe & Kayak Club and all equipment is included.

Instructor: RCKC

Location: Whonnock Lake Centre

ADULT LEARN TO KAYAK

Age: 19Y and up

Learn the proper posture, balance, steering, stroke technique and basic water safety skills in kayaks on Whonnock Lake. Instruction is provided by Ridge Canoe & Kayak Club and all equipment is included.

Instructor: RCKC

Location: Whonnock Lake Centre



http://whonnockian.blogspot.com



Grant Hill aquifer boundaries



THORNHILL COMMUNITY HALL

Our little Community Hall is seeing many more bookings than in past years, even prior to the COVID pandemic. We receive comments that this hall is affordable and the right size for many family events. We are starting to have bookings a year in advance.

The setting among the trees in the park adds to rural feel of any planned event.

For bookings call Fran @ 604-462-9244.

The Hall is located at 26007- 98th Avenue.

For any other information online look at <thornhillhall.ca>..

TAPS (THORNHILL AQUIFER PROTECTION STUDY)

Happy New Year to all who live in these lovely rural communities in east Maple Ridge.

We hope that the past months have gone well for you.

We had concerns regarding the water levels since we didn't really receive much rain until October, but everyone on our program faired out well. Some shallow well owners needed to haul water for a longer period of time because of our drought situation, especially as our climate continues to change. The current readings for the deep wells show consistent levels and we are pleased about that.

For the most part, our immediate concerns regarding Light Industrial development on Thornhill seem to be quieter. We will continue be vigilant.

Groundwater issues are in the forefront around the world and the one common thread is that we need to value and protect our clean drinking water.

We are grateful for all our participating members, many who have been with the program since 2006. Well monitoring and data collection are crucial, We hope you all continue to support our valuable aquifers that provide us with our clean drinking water and enable agricultural activities in our rural lands.

Betty & Klaus von Hardenberg



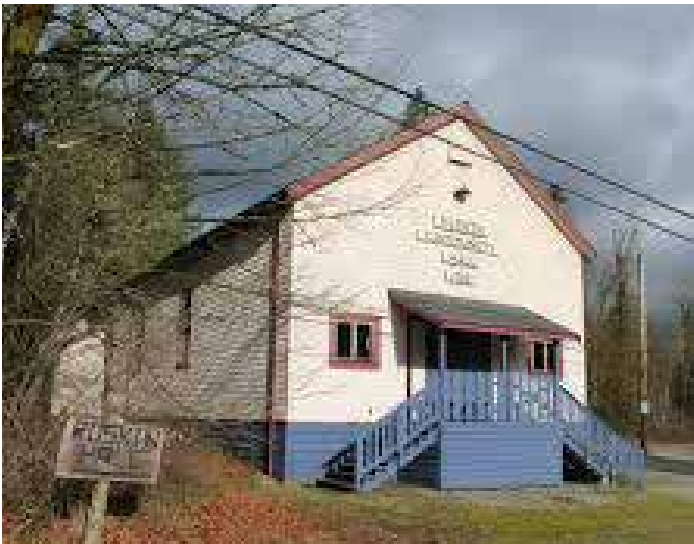
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Imagine biting into a sun-ripened tomato picked just hours ago, or savouring the sweetness of a locally grown strawberry.

The taste is pure and unadulterated, bursting with flavour and vitality.

Eating fresh, local produce is not just about nourishing your body, it's about nourishing your soul and feeling connected to something bigger than yourself.

Yellow House Farm is currently accepting memberships in their CSA program; get fresh certified organic produce delivered to your door weekly.

Go to yellowhousefarm.ca for more information!

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 96th 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 at 604-462-9739, bookings@ruskinhall.com, or 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 upcoming events.



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SOREN ISBRAND

My inspiration comes from the clay itself.

I am driven by my desire of trying new things and experiencing an art as ancient as humankind.

Red Roof Pottery | 9702 - 284 Street, Maple Ridge.

Ruskin potter Soren Isbrand will participate in this year's Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows Art Studio Tour.

Red Roof Pottery will be open to visitors on Mother's Day Weekend, May 13 - 14, between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm.

Soren shares the studio with Soledad Avaria, painter.

Go to artstudiotour.ca to find other local artists to visit



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



WEAVERS AND SPINNERS GUILD

We are happy to report that our guild continues to grow in numbers and are an active happy gathering of fibrephiles!

We meet regularly on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at St. John the Divine Church and have no end of things to share! The skill-set within our membership is outstanding and we encourage anyone with a desire to find out more about spinning, weaving, basket making and more to check us out.

Our guild was delighted to be able to have our Annual Exhibit & Sale this year at our original location – The Whonnock Lake Centre! The weather cooperated, the cookies were baked, the guest artists had their work on display, the guild's creative works were front and center, and it was a most successful event. This is the pivot point of our calendar and we so appreciate all the support we get from the community and the public.

We continue to explore and learn more and have an upcoming workshop planned – an experience of Ikat Weaving. We also have regular programs within our meeting times to improve our working knowledge of our various craft.

Our guild will hold the Exhibit & Sale again this year at The Whonnock Lake Centre on November 26th. We hope you all can attend.

The members also hope that you have a wonderful spring and summer! We certainly could all use it after this cold winter and all the snow.

Again, we always welcome new members so if you are interested in the fibre arts and wish to join us, simply contact us. We have spinners, weavers, basket makers, felters, knitters, and more! We have a break for the summer (July & August) when we plan fun days with various hosts.

If you would like more information, please phone Marie at 604-462-9059 .

Our Web address is <wwsg.ca> Facebook:: <Whonnock-WeaversandSpinnersGuild>. Instagram:: <whonnock-weaversandspinners>



WILDWOOD FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

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 and peace as we seek Him and follow His ways.

We are meeting at 10:30 AM Sundays for regular Services.

You are welcome to join us.

Feel free to visit our website <wildwoodfellowship.com>

COBS BREAD AND BUNS:

If you are in need or know someone who is, Cobs bread is available free at the church on Wednesday mornings from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.

If you are not able to get to the church on Wednesday mornings and would like some bread, or if you are struggling and need help with groceries, please call the church at 604-462-7741.





HOLY SPIRIT ANGLICAN CHURCH

27123 River Road in Whonnock
Visit our website <holyspiritanglican.ca>
Church - phone: 604-462-7933
Email: holyspiritanglican.whonnock@gmail.com

Holy Spirit Anglican Church at 27123 River Road welcomes you for Good Friday and Easter services. Watch the sign-board in front of the church for details.



Please pull into the church driveway and admire the new pollinator garden in front of the church as it comes alive over the next months. There should be some happy bees buzzing. This was planted by the children's program last summer and a grant from the Diocese. Thank you to 'Grow and Gather' Nursery on Dewdney Trunk for their generous donation of plants.

Our priest, Rev Miranda, will be helping another parish for the next few months as well as ministering to us.

Worship times may sometimes change.

Please phone 604-462-7933 to get updated times.



The Holy Spirit Anglican Church will be holding an on-line silent auction from April 17th to April 21st to raise money for the Church's programs, many of which also serve the community outside the Church.

Donations will be made by parishioners and a call goes out to the business community for a gift of a single item or a gift basket. A gift certificate for goods or services is always popular.

Call MARY BLACKSTOCK 604 462 8572 to offer your support. The names of the donors will be shown unless requested otherwise.

For those wishing to bid on items, the link to the auction will be provided on the Holy Spirit website <holyspiritanglican.ca> on April 17th



A new activity on Wednesdays - tea and light exercise at 10 am in the church hall. If you want to stay for prayers afterwards, you are welcome but no pressure.

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Whonnock Elementary

Spring Market

Sunday, May 7th, 2023
10 - 3



CAMP WHONNOCK

Camp Whonnock is fully open.

The camp is booked most weekends through spring and summer.

We are still looking for volunteers so we can continue to keep the camp open.

Anyone interested in volunteering can contact PAUL DOYLE at pauldoyle@shaw.ca

Ph# 604 607 4894

FIRST WHONNOCK SCOUTS

1st Whonnock Scouts has successfully re-opened our 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 scouts.ca.