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Whonnock News

Spring 2007

President's Report

We are so lucky to live here in Whonnock or Ruskin for so many reasons, but after the weird weather in December and January sometimes getting down off this hill is a scary thing.

I live surrounded by trees, as many of you do, which created another kind of worry this year...but touch wood, so far so good!!! It did seem at times that we had travelled back in time to simpler, easier days, but then I would hear the drone of someone's generator and it's back to 2007 again.

The last few years have passed by very quickly, lots of community events have come and gone and new ones are on the horizon. We have a very active community, with many groups involved in all sorts of activities. We see or hear from many of these groups throughout the year including the District, the Arts Club, Haney Horsemen, the Hospital Foundation, Local schools, preschools and playgroups, the Old Age Pensioners and our local churches, to name but a few.

If you would like to get involved in our community or any of the local groups, come to a meeting or visit our Web site at <whonnock.ca>, for more information. We are always happy to see new faces and welcome back old ones as well. The Whonnock Community Association meets on the third Thursday of every month and everyone is welcome.

All the best for a happy, healthy 2007 from myself and the Whonnock Community Association.

—Noreen Woods

WCA Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday April 8th
at 1:00 sharp
Rain or shine !



Whonnock Lake Centre Report

We like to thank Jo-Ann for all her training and on-going advice. We have enjoyed meeting many residents of Whonnock. All have been warm and friendly. We have had a busy start to 2007 with many bookings for 2008 as well. It is nice to know there is still love in the air.

The Centre has been a hub of activity with programs such as Pilates, Karate, art classes, etc. We have the Wee Ones that meet at the Centre every Tuesday morning. Good on you, Moms, for teaching your children to be community minded.

The Whonnock Weavers meet at the Centre on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. They create some great creative work I have had the pleasure of viewing at their Art Sale held each November. Be sure not to miss out on that opportunity.

The Brownies and Girl Guides meet at the Centre on Tuesday nights. This is a group of fine young ladies learning crafts, survival, and to be good Samaritans.

The Rhododendron Club has begun cleanup from the nasty wind storms and is preparing their beautiful garden for all to enjoy. I hope that you all take time to come up for a sit down on one of the benches or just stroll through the garden and enjoy its beauty.

—Jordy and Shirley and Abby, our German Shepherd Golden Lab cross.

Other Special Dates to Remember

Rhododendron Sale – Sunday, April 29th.

Volunteer Appreciation celebration – T.B.A.

Whonnock Lake Day – Sunday, September 23rd

Whonnock Community Association Bursary - \$1000

The Whonnock Community Association Bursary is awarded every June in accordance with District graduation schedules and policy. So for all you grade 12 students residing in the Whonnock area and going on to post-secondary education, whether it is university, college or trade school, inquire with your school counsellors for more information and to get an application package. We consider three areas when awarding this bursary: financial need, marks and a student's commitment to the community, school or other worthy causes through volunteerism. Good luck to all applicants.

Good for Whonnock and Ruskin?

Do you have any suggestions how to make life better for all of us out here? The Whonnock Foundation is looking for suggestions in how they should accomplish their objective to "assist, encourage, and promote the wellbeing" of the residents of Whonnock and Ruskin. Ideas? Call Fred at 604 462 8942.

Want to Post Your Events on the Well?



"Water for Whonnock" was the cry in 1980 and the community united in what is now the Whonnock Community Association. The Municipality agreed and built this Whonnock landmark and salvation for many of us with dropping water levels. Phil Johnson acquired the notice board for the Association (at no cost). Want to post your event on the well? Call Fred at 604 462 8942 or Jo-Ann at 604 463 1622. Pastor Arnold Tracey climbs the ladder every time a change is needed. Thank you Pastor!

You want to know what's on the sign? It reads: "Everyone is invited to the Christmas Tree Burn and Whonnock Lake Jan. 10 12-5 PM." That dates the photo back to the early 1980s.

For more on water read "Aquifers" in this issue.

Protect your Loved Ones!

To keep them dry the Whonnock Community Association has in stock a small number of charming Whonnock Umbrellas in brilliant Canadian red and white, decorated with the famous Whonnock logo.



The umbrellas are for sale at McFly's (Sue's) and at Whonnock Lake Centre. Only \$20 each!

Community Policing & Speed Watch

For information on Community Policing, Speed Watch, Block Watch or any other programs available through the RCMP Volunteer services, go to the Ridge Meadows RCMP detachment home page and click on the Volunteering icon. Their Web site is <www.rcmp.grc.gc.ca/bc/lmd/ridgemeadows/contents.html>

Adopt-A-Block

Thanks to all of those who continue to volunteer to help keep our community clean and tidy. We have lost a couple of volunteers in the last while, so if anybody is interested please give me, Jean Ruttan, a call at 604-462-7794. I will provide you with a grabber and instructions on disposal of your garbage.

The Byrnes Bursary

Michael van Meel and Liana Bakker were the first recipients of Byrnes Bursaries. The Whonnock Foundation is waiting for new applicants.

The Foundation wants to continue granting 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 and with a proven record of good performance.

The Foundation is particularly interested in applicants who are doing everything they can to continue or complete their studies—part-time jobs, student loans, etc.

Information about the requirements can be found on the Whonnock Foundation pages on <whonnock.bc.ca>.

Whonnock and Ruskin have a Web Site

The Whonnock Community Association's Web site covers Whonnock and Ruskin and recently added some information about Thornhill. Hosted at no cost by Dowco, the site grew from a few pages (built by Eit Bakker) on Whonnock Lake Centre, to an all-inclusive site with information about the Centre, the Ruskin Community Hall, the Thornhill Hall, our churches, school, post office, commercial institutions, clubs and organizations etc. etc as well as our heritage and history. Did we miss something? Do you think we should do more or different things? Send an email to <webmaster@whonnock.ca> please!

Wildwood Fellowship Church

Wildwood Fellowship Church is a family oriented, non-denominational community church that believes that all people matter to God. Our definition of fellowship is: "The oneness of spirit that comes when two friends are on the same side of a struggle." Our desire is to come alongside of you helping you find practical help from God's Word to meet the challenges we all face in our daily lives. We welcome you to join us for our Sunday Worship Services at 10:30 am and join us for a cup of coffee following the service. (Super Church during service for children up to age 12)

Our KIDS CLUB meets bi-weekly on Fridays 6:30 - 8:30 pm for crafts, games, activities and occasional outings. This is for any children Kindergarten up to Grade 4.

The COMMUNITY JR. YOUTH GROUP is open to anyone in Grades 5-8. We usually meet twice a month, most often Sunday evenings 6:30 - 8:00pm.

Our annual FAMILY CAMP is coming up the weekend of April 13-15th at Camp Luther on Hatzic Lake, close to Mission. Come out for a FAMILY COMEDY NIGHT on Sunday, Feb. 25th to get all the info you'll need should you decide to join us for the weekend.

Please call Pastor Arnold or Eleanor Tracey at (604)462-0610 for more information on the church or any of the above programs or events.

Whonnock United Church

The Whonnock United Church at 27091 River Road meets Sundays at 11:00 a.m. for a joyful hour of music and worship followed by coffee and fellowship in our church hall. We are a small but warm and outreaching congregation, strong in our faith and genuine in our worship. We welcome all to come visit and enjoy our service. For more information call Jean Ruttan at 604-462-7794.

From Whonnock Elementary P. A. C.

Happy New Year to all the parents, staff, students and the Whonnock Community. The school year is already half over and we have had a very successful and exciting 5 months.

Thank you to all who participated in our 5th annual Boo Who Ville Halloween Carnival. The evening was a "spooktacular" success and a whole lot of fun. We raised over \$4500.

Our Scholastic Book Fair, held during parent/teacher conferences, raised over \$550. This money will go towards new books for the school library. Thank you to all who volunteered and purchased books.

Mrs. Fehr's grade 6/7 class is involved in the laptop program. The program is in full swing and very successful. The students are eagerly enjoying their schoolwork.

PAC meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, in the school library at 7:00 p.m. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

—Rhonda Knowles. P. A. C. Secretary

Whonnock Wee Ones Play Group

For newborns to preschoolers. Open playtime, crafts, songs, circle time and lots of fun. Drop in, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m., Tuesdays at Whonnock Lake Centre \$2.00 per session.

Lakeside Preschool

Located on beautiful Whonnock Lake in the Whonnock Lake Centre, this bright well-equipped preschool offers a variety of experiences for 3 to 5 year olds. We provide a wide range of opportunities for social interaction, exploration, and problem solving through unstructured play. Our aim is to provide each child with exciting and stimulating experiences in a warm and relaxed atmosphere. For ongoing registration phone Mrs. Kilsby at 604-462-0026 to reserve your child's space in one of our programs.

Old Age Pensioners – Branch 103, Whonnock

Meetings are on the last Monday of the month at 11:00 a.m. at the Whonnock United Church. Call Margaret Norman, 604-462-7591 for more information.



Whonnock Walkers

Join us Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 9:15 for a friendly, one-hour walk. Call Maureen at 604-462-7940 for more information. Location: Whonnock Lake Centre parking lot.

Whonnock T.O.P.S. Local 4522

Take off Pounds Sensibly is a non-profit weight-loss support group that meets every Tuesday at the Wildwood Fellowship Church in Whonnock. We offer guidance, support and plenty of laughs. Come see what we are all about.

Time 6:45 – 7:00 p.m. weigh-in, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. meeting. Call Lori at 604-463-7355 or Jo-Ann at 604-463-1622 for more information.

Westcoast Shotokan Karate School

Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Whonnock Lake Centre.

Sensei: Andrew Johnson 604-612-3995. For more information visit our Web site at <shotokanjohnson@yahoo.ca>



Ridge Canoe and Kayak Club Winter Report



The winter time is a long and grueling period for our athletes training in preparation for the regatta season in the spring. This winter has been especially tough because of the cold and windy conditions, which has kept us off of the lake for a longer period of time.

The club operates a pool winter session, however, on Sunday evenings from 6-7 pm at the Maple Ridge Leisure Centre. This is a good opportunity for anyone that would like to try our sport in the comfort of a warm pool environment. Some of our kids will be heading to California in March for a training camp in warmer conditions.

We welcomed a new coach to the club last fall from the province of Ontario. Johnny Mantura comes to us with high credentials as a canoe specialist. This will complement our athletes who want to train as canoeists rather than kayakers. We are very privileged to have Johnny on board with us. He will be around the boathouse lots during the spring and summer months running the bulk of the programs.

The club has embarked on the exciting journey of the pursuit of a new and larger boathouse as well as an additional community space for Whonnock and surrounding community. The goal for this project is to provide our members more space to grow, as well as attract high-performance athletes country-wide to come to Whonnock Lake and train at a first class West Coast Training Centre.

The vision is to complement the Whonnock Community Centre with a facility that will offer more multi-use attractions for all groups. The hall and kitchen facility combined with a stage and multipurpose rooms will be available to all user groups. We hope to partner with Parks and Leisure Services and be able to offer washrooms for the public, a concession stand, and accommodations for the park caretakers. A large second story covered deck is planned for a breathtaking view of the lake. Our New Boathouse Committee has been hard at work in development of this project. We have met with the committee heads of the Whonnock Community Association with the detailed plans. We received an overwhelming approval for our project, as well as a \$50 K commitment to the project. RCKC is extremely grateful to the Whonnock Community Association and to the residents of Whonnock, for the kind support you have given us towards this project. This is our vision and we will be letting the public know through our Web site of the ongoing status of this project. I invite you to visit rckc.ca for details.

—Dave Muir

Guys and Gals Volleyball

Wednesday nights at Whonnock Elementary all adults are welcome to come out for a drop-in Volleyball game 7:45 – 9:00-ish. Some fun and fitness and best of all it's free.

Low Impact Aerobics

Thursdays from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m., at Whonnock Lake Centre.

For more information please call instructor, Alvina Tyler at 604-462-8601.

Yoga with Kim at Ruskin Hall

There are many types of physical exercise, but the Yogic system of *asanas*, a Sanskrit word meaning steady pose, is the most complete, benefiting far more than just the physical body. The *asanas* emphasize deep breathing, relaxed movements and mental concentration. Wednesday evenings at 7:30.

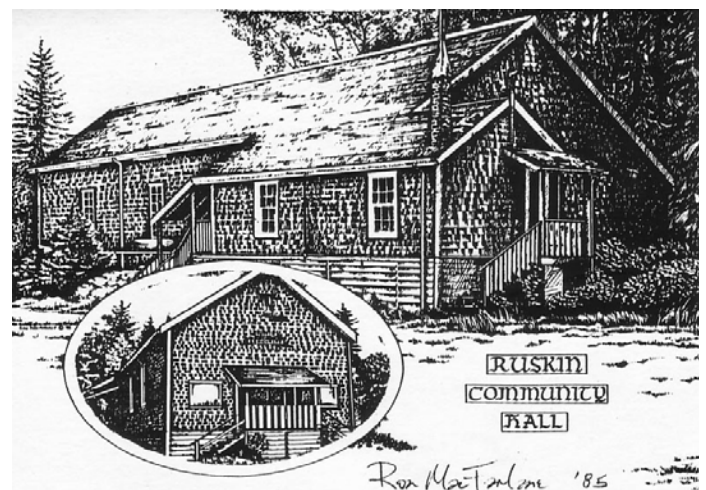
Call Kim Rondquist for more information at 604-462-4284.



Ruskin Hall Information

The Ruskin Community Hall is located on the corner of 284th Street and 96th Avenue in Maple Ridge. It is available for rent for anniversaries, weddings, family reunions, etc. at the basic weekend rate of \$300. The Hall seats 84 for a banquet or 114 for a theatre setting, kitchen and plates are available for an additional cost. The Hall can also be rented on an hourly basis. Call booking agent Shannon at 462-7642 for more information.

The Ruskin Community Hall Association meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30. Everyone is welcome.



Fraser Valley Rhododendron Society Whonnock Garden Notes

When I began these notes on January 10th we were just into the third substantial snow storm of the winter. There had been two periods of severe frost already, with the prospect of another in the following few days.

The heavy snow and wind in December brought down several branches from the tall trees in the old garden. One long branch, the thickness of an arm, fell directly across a spreading rhododendron bush and split off some of the branches. Another falling branch, even heavier, was held up by the stout arm of one of the older rhododendrons near to the entrance gateway. It caused no damage. Several barrow loads of small bushy debris littered over the old garden were removed along with the sawn-up branches. The new garden was little affected by the storm.

For one reason and another we were into November before we drained the irrigation system, but fortunately we were ahead of the freezing weather.

The value of our watering system was demonstrated very clearly during the past long hot summer. We never had to resort to supplementary watering except when planting new rhododendrons. In general the plants received two gallons of water every two days by the drip irrigation system delivered close to the roots. This system will be the subject of a workshop planned for the spring this year put on by FVRS volunteers in association with Ridge Meadows College. Details will be advertised later. The workshop is addressed to those who wish to avoid spending long hours with a hose pipe trying to save their plants during hot dry weather.

The annual Rhododendron Show and Sale will be held on Sunday April 29th. An improved method of handling sales last year resulted in buyers being able to complete their purchases within a few minutes. We will try to repeat this again, and we hope for the return of some of our earlier regulars who were put off by the long lines two years ago.

For information about the Fraser Valley Rhododendron Society, the Whonnock Garden or the Drip Irrigation workshop please call Scot Henney at 604-464-7979.



1st Whonnock Scouting Group



The 1st Whonnock Scouting Group is having a successful year this far. There is ample room at our new location at the Whonnock Lodge at 27660 Dewdney Trunk Rd. We have all 3 sections (Beavers ages 5-7, Cubs 8-10, & Scouts 11-14), in full operation and meeting all on one night - Tuesdays, 6:30 - 7:30 (Cubs & Scouts 8:00 pm). We found this makes life easier for parents with more than one child in different age groups.

The group would like to thank everyone in the community for their support during our Popcorn and Bottle Drive Fundraiser's. A special "Thank You" to all our Leaders that have volunteered their time, when time is so precious.

- Beavers – Sterling & Marnie Mitchell
- Cubs – Lisa Blanchard, David Van Buskirk,
Cameron Dowall
- Scouts – Michael Paulmann, Lori Mijo

August 1, 2007, commemorates 100 years of Scouting. There will be various events happening in the community. Past and present members are all welcome. Check out our Web page at <whonnock.ca> for updates. Interested in becoming a member or leader, please contact Adriana Knox at (604) 462-7262.

Guides and Pathfinders

Guides and Pathfinders meet at Whonnock Lake Centre, Tuesdays from 6 – 8 p.m. For more information call Heidi at 604-462-7193 or see <whonnock.ca>

Whonnock Youth Outreach

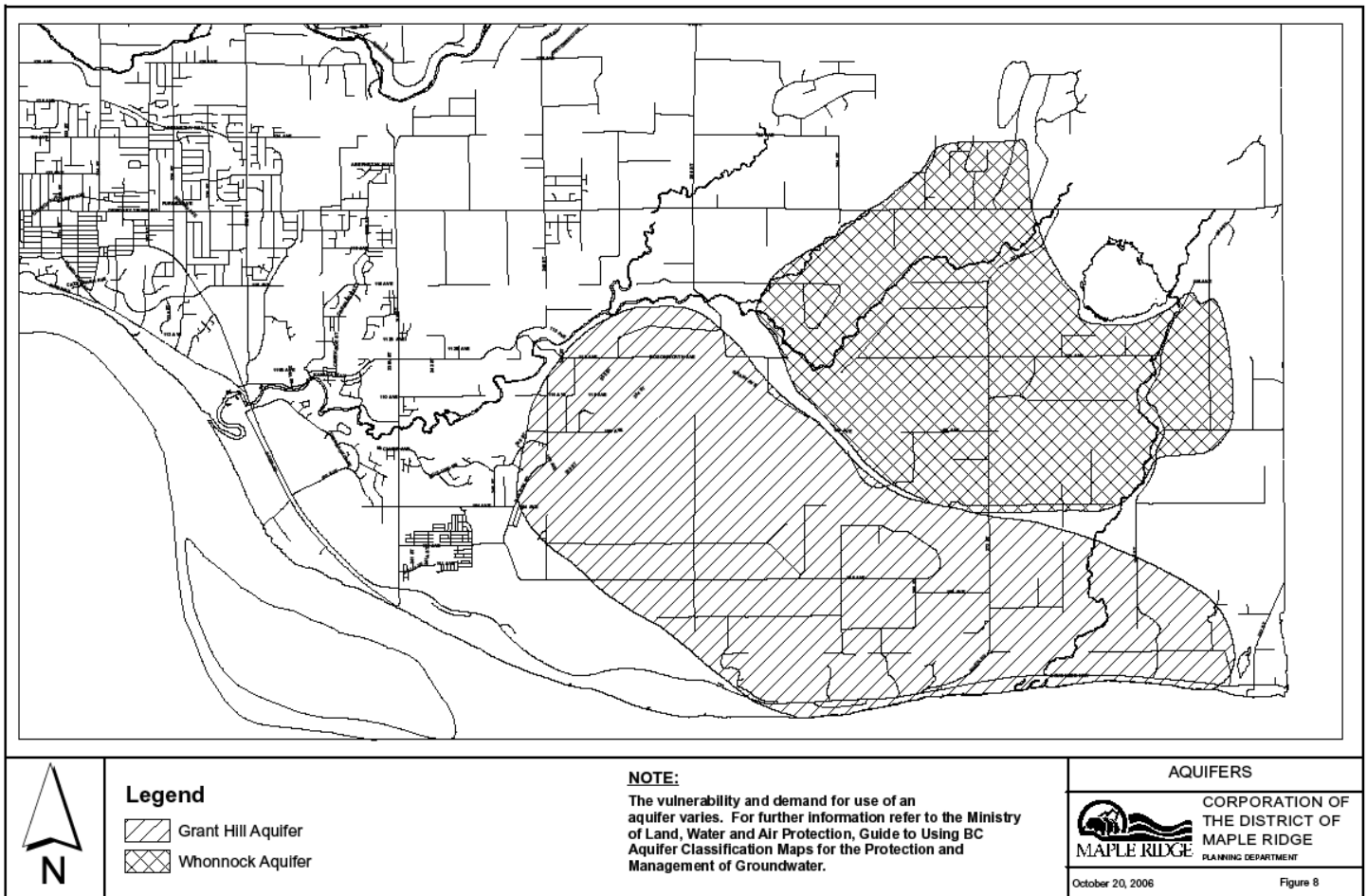
In partnership with the Whonnock Community Association. A component of the Youth Outreach Initiative, Whonnock Youth Outreach hosts activities within the Whonnock area. The Youth have been working hard with the area residents, volunteers, parents, and the Community Association to develop social and recreational opportunities. For more information call: 604-467-7354. (Mondays 7:00-9:00 pm September – June).

Whonnock Weavers & Spinners

We meet every 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., at Whonnock Lake Centre.

For more information, come to a meeting or phone Marie at 604-462-7591.





Aquifers—Taking Care of our Water

Last fall, at a talk at Whonnock Lake Centre, much was said about the new BC Groundwater Protection Regulations and how well-owners can protect their own water supply and that of their neighbours, and help to keep ground water resources healthy and clean for future generations. The talk, attended by a large crowd, was important for all who live on wells, but many left disappointed expecting to hear more about our water reserves. We all depend on well-water and, with the seemingly ever drier summers, we are worried that our wells will run dry. There were no answers to those questions.

Here in this area those with drilled wells get their water from aquifers, underground geological formations, containing water and the source of groundwater for wells and springs. The approximate boundaries of the Whonnock Aquifer and the Grant Hill Aquifer are shown on the map, but not even their exact boundaries are known or how the two aquifers are related or affect each other.

Three years ago, Betty and Klaus von Hardenberg, concerned with the water in the Thornhill area and the effects of development on the Grant Hill aquifer, formed a water monitoring group with much support from the Township of Langley, who, in partnership with the Province, is developing a water management plan—the first ever in the Province. TAPS, the Thorn-

hill Aquifer Protection Society, is also working with the Ministry of the Environment and the District of Maple Ridge.

Twenty Thornhill residents now test their water four times a year; the samples are collected by the von Hardenbergs and are picked up and analyzed by Norwest Lab from Surrey. So far the water quality has been very good. Of course records of water levels at the wells are also kept. TAPS will be able to read how weather and things people do affect their groundwater over a large area.

The Province operates a network of observation wells in BC, including one in Whonnock, to assess how precipitation affects ground water level fluctuations in aquifers, but these readings from just one point in this neighbourhood are of little local interest. Coordinated measurement of the well levels and the quality of the water as pioneered by TAPS in Maple Ridge seems to be the way to go.

Is there a wish in Whonnock or Ruskin to replicate what TAPS is doing on the slopes of Grant Hill? Should there be a WAPS or RAPS or perhaps even a WRAPS? The Whonnock Community Association plans to organize a meeting of Whonnock and Ruskin residents to see if there is interest in a similar project. Watch for further news about the date.

Contact: Yukiko Tanaka 604-462-8675