Whonnock Community Association

WHONNOCK NEWS



Fall 2026

Dear Neighbors,

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended the recent All-Candidates Meetings. It was encouraging to see so many community members take the time to show up, ask thoughtful questions, and learn more about the people and issues that will help shape our future. We appreciate the respectful atmosphere and the willingness of residents to listen to different perspectives, even when opinions differ. These conversations are an important part of a healthy community, and we're grateful to everyone who helped make them productive and welcoming.

With Halloween just around the corner, we'd also like to wish all our Whonnock families a safe and happy Halloween! Whether you're taking little ones trick-or-treating, welcoming costumed visitors at your door, or enjoying a quiet evening at home, we hope you find plenty of reasons to smile. A friendly reminder to drivers to slow down and watch carefully for pedestrians, and to trick-or-treaters to stay visible, use sidewalks where available, and keep an eye out for one another.

As the days get shorter and the season changes, we hope everyone enjoys the opportunity to connect with neighbours and make some wonderful autumn memories.

From all of us at the Whonnock Community Association, have a spooktacular Halloween!

Danika Adamthwaite
President, Whonnock Community Association

1ST WHONNOCK SCOUTS

Our little Whonnock Scout Group keeps growing every year! We have three sections: Beavers (ages 5-7), Cubs (ages 8-10), and Scouts (ages 11-14). Unfortunately we are currently full, but if your child wishes to join Scouts for outdoor adventures and to learn new skills, you can go to the Scouts Canada website for more information about the program and registration. You can also email 1stwhonnockscouts@gmail.com for more information about our local group.

REMEMBRANCE DAY



The Whonnock Community Association, in conjunction with 1st Whonnock Scouts, will again have our annual Remembrance Day ceremony outside at Whonnock Lake Centre by the commemorative plaques. The ceremony will start at 10:45am.

Jenise Paton
Group Commissioner
1st Whonnock Scouts



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Published by the Whonnock Community Association, P.O. Box 134, Whonnock, B.C., V2W 1V9

RIDGE CANOE & KAYAK CLUB FALL UPDATE



What a great summer on the water! From exciting races to new paddling opportunities and improvements at the club, it's been a busy and rewarding season for RCKC.

A Great Season of Racing

Our three home regattas brought plenty of excitement to Whonnock! We welcomed paddlers from acrossBC, the Yukon, Edmonton, and Washington State, with 237 athletes attending our season-ending Fort /Ridge Classic. RCKC paddlers also competed at the BC Summer Games in Kelowna, the National Championships in Ottawa, the Nanaimo Long Distance Regatta, and the Yukon Midnight Regatta. We're proud of all our athletes and their accomplishments this season!

Paddling for Everyone

Our summer camps, Family Learn to Paddle, and Adult Learn to Paddle programs introduced more people to the fun of paddling.

Exciting News at the Club

The City of Maple Ridge built a **new floating dock** this summer, and we're looking forward to plans for a **new boathouse!** We also want to thank the **Whonnock Association** for its generous donation in April toward our new K4 racing kayak. Your support helps our paddlers train, compete, and grow.

A big thank-you to our paddlers, families, volunteers, and community partners for making this season such a success. We couldn't do it without you!

Paddling continues through the fall as our athletes build their skills and fitness in preparation for next summer's racing season. We're excited to see what they accomplish!

Want to learn more about RCKC and our programs? Visit rckc.ca for updates. Here's to another great season on the water!

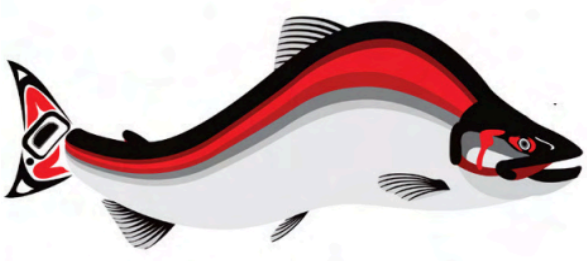
ON THE TRAIL OF WILLIAM ADOLPHUS BOSTROM...

The Whonnock Community Association is searching for any relatives of William Adolphus Bostrom who, sadly, was killed in action in World War II. He is buried in a cemetery in Holland where, in gratitude for their liberation, local folks still tend the graves of fallen Canadian soldiers. Indeed there is a waiting list of Dutch volunteers wanting to care for a grave. Part of this task is finding out about the soldier and making links to family of the deceased to assure them that the grave is being cared for. As well, they hope to find out a little more about the deceased, including getting a photo to make the information more personal. WCA was contacted by Harrie van Ewijk. the person who has just taken over tending this soldier's grave. Harrie is seeking to make a link with family members of William Adolphus Bostrom. He was not married so we are seeking descendants of his many siblings.

William Adolphus Bostrom was in the Canadian Army and his address on enlistment is Whonnock. Initial inquiries have not found any trace. He was born in Minnesota and his family soon moved to Danskin, BC, near Smithers. Perhaps William Adolphus had come to Whonnock to work, maybe in a lumber camp. He was Lutheran. Inquiries with neighbours who have been in this area for a long time have not yielded clues. We are pursuing leads through records of military, museums, Lutheran Church archives and any other sources suggested to us.

We would love to update this story at the Whonnock Lake cenotaph service on November 11. Do you have any clues you can provide to us about family members of William Adolphus Bostrom? Please contact Jean Davidson 604-462-7341 jeandavidson@shaw.ca. Thank you!

This issue of WHONNOCK NEWS was assembled and produced by Kanagaraj C Selvraj (RAJ), Tanish A Kanagaraj, illustrations by Tara A Dhuginii



BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WHONNOCK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Danika Adamthwaite - President
Heather Anderson - Vice President
Mary Blackstock - Treasurer
Helmi Braches - Secretary
Noreen Woods - Director at Large
Bette Goode - Director at Large

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

WHONNOCK WEAVERS AND SPINNERS

Summer is a slower season for the Whonnock Weavers and Spinners. Our regular meetings are put on hold for July and August, but we still had plenty of activity! The biggest event of the summer was Country Fest. In case you missed it, it has been Maple Ridge's annual agricultural fair FOR over 100 years. We've had a booth there for many years where we help people card and spin wool into yarn that we tied into bracelets. It was pouring rain for one of the days, but lots of people of all ages showed up to give spinning a try! It was such a delight to see the joy when people realized they had made their own yarn! It's certainly one of the highlights of our year.

A small group of our members also participated in Tour de Fleece, which, in a nutshell, is a global event where spinners spin every day of the Tour de France. Our group got together on one of the days to spin under the bandstand at our local farmers market, and we had a lovely time spinning and chatting with folks!

We also had a cellulose dye day in August that was run by our own Irene Weisner. Some people painted warps, others dyed rayon top, silk scarves, and an assortment of non-protein fibre yarns. It was an absolute blast and everything turned out quite beautifully.



Looking forward, we are currently ramping up for our annual juried Exhibit and Sale on **Sunday, November 29th**. It's the biggest event of our year, and it's a really wonderful showcase of the many skills and talents of our members. This year also happens to be the 45th anniversary of this annual sale, which is incredible and humbling to think about. We are always delighted to see so many Whonnock residents come and admire our work, visit with us, enjoy the tea, coffee and cookies, and buy something handmade and special.

Looking into the New Year, the guild also has an exhibit coming up in the ACT Gallery. The title is "Form Function and Fantasy - Narrative threads from the Whonnock Weavers and Spinners." It should be a really great showcase of all the work we do: traditional, non traditional, functional and decorative, and will include all the disciplines that fall under our guild's scope: Woven items, wearables, felting, tapestry, basketry, etc. We look forward to seeing many of you there during the months of January and February as the show runs from January 16 to March 6. It would also be wonderful to see you there for the opening on January 16 from 2 to 4 pm.

If you wish further information visit our website at www.wwsg.ca or follow us on Facebook or Instagram.

Save the date: Whonnock Community Association's **Bingo** fundraiser will be held on **18th April 2027**.

See Whonnock News in colour at whonnock.ca

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GREAT CYCLE CHALLENGE CANADA, WHONNOCK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CHAPTER

This year marked my 10th year participating in the Great Cycle Challenge Canada. The ride takes place the entire month of August. This year, I started up a Whonnock Community Association Team and I put it out to other riders to join on the GCC website and posted on the Whonnock Neighbours page on Facebook. Unfortunately, there was only one other rider, who in the end did not log any kilometres. The good news is I had set a goal to ride 400 KMs, and ended up riding 504.4 KMs. I also set a fund raising goal of $1,000 and ended up with $3,174. For the last 2 years I set up a table outside Canadian Tire to sell Purdy's Chocolate. My ten year total for the ride is 5,210.4 KMs ridden, and $32,621.34 in donations.



The ride will be back next August and anyone can sign up online at greatcyclechallenge.ca. Riders only need to pledge to ride any distance they think they can commit to in the month, and set your own goal for fund raising. The organizers will supply you with a ride tracking app, fund raising ideas and materials. Also, if you raise $500 you will receive a GCC cycle jersey and on top of that if you raise $2,500 you will be eligible for a Super Hero jersey.

Proceeds from the ride go towards children's cancer research. This year, nationwide, there were 11,176 riders and we collected $6,658,074 and rode 2,659,869 KMs across Canada.

My history with the ride started after I had participated in a cancer ride from Vancouver to Seattle. The problem with that ride for me was scheduling. Since it took place on one specific weekend, it conflicted with other commitments. The GCC ride gives you a lot of flexibility. You choose the days you ride within the month. Plus you can ride a bike, e-bike, or even a stationary bike. There is no minimum distance for the ride, and no required amount of donations. Just do what you can.

So if you are interested in joining next year you can register early. I usually sign up at the beginning of the summer, but rides aren't counted until August. Also, it costs nothing to sign up! Most of my rides are on the dikes in Maple Ridge, and Pitt Meadows and on the PoCo trail. That keeps me away from traffic most of the time. Whonnock just doesn't have true bike paths. I have ridden the roads, but you have to be a defensive rider and watch out for traffic.

Paul Stanley



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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 284 Street and 96 Ave. Hall meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm. 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 150 persons for auditorium events. For rental information contact our Booking Agent at 604-462-9739 email: bookings@ruskinhall.com.

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

Check out our website for the progress of the purchase and installation of an elevator lift as well as other fundraising projects and how you can help. Information on upcoming events are available www.ruskinhall.com or on our Facebook page.

WHONNOCK POST OFFICE LETTER WRITING DAYS

Two letter writing days were held in front of the Whonnock Post Office in August and September for people to drop in and write cards or letters to friends or family. Post cards, letter writing materials and stamps were donated by Post A Letter - Social Activity Club. We are encouraging people to make use of our local Post Office and support it by posting items.

The event was run by Paul and Gloria Stanley from PAL-SAC. The two events were lightly attended, but for those who did stop by they managed to mail out quite a few letters. I am sure the recipients were thrilled to go to their mailbox and find that someone cared enough to write.



Post A Letter - Social Activity Club was started in Toronto several years ago by one of Paul Stanley's high school students, Angel Chen. While attending school in Canada, she kept in touch with her father overseas by mail, and cherished the letters he sent to her. The club has branched out with chapters all over the world. There are no dues, no member list, and at this time no scheduled meetings. The events are "pop ups" . Before COVID kept everyone from meeting face to face we had monthly get togethers in Vancouver. However it has been difficult to find a suitable new location. The next pop up will take place in Vancouver at the "Spooky Postcard Show" at One More Life Gallery on main street in Vancouver on Saturday, October 24, 2026, from 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM. At PAL-SAC we like to say, "We are so retro, we are cool!"

WHONNOCK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BURSARY

Congratulations to the 2026, WCA bursary recipient, Grace Rutledge - Garibaldi Secondary.
Grace Rutledge is a dynamic and hardworking person and will be working towards a career in Kinesiology. We wish her the best of luck in her educational journey and in reaching her personal goals. Please visit Whonnock.ca for more information on the WCA bursary as well as the Byrnes Bursary.

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THORNHILL COMMUNITY HALL



We are pleased to see all the new interior upgrades to our Hall. We are carefully and intentionally improving our Hall. Next plans are for revamping our kitchen floors and walls and upgrading our washrooms. It takes volunteers to dedicate their time, energy and care to manage this Hall.

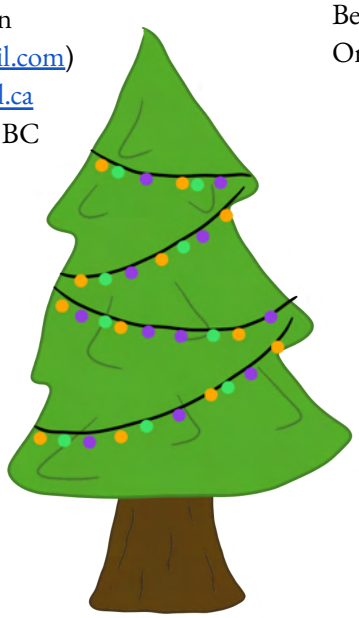
Our bookings are filling up quickly for every weekend of the remaining months of 2026.

We have had wonderful, thoughtful clients and one donated their damage deposit to our Association in appreciation of our volunteerism. We are so grateful for their kindness and for all those clients that rent the Hall and leave it as they found it. Thank you.

Our hall is well suited for birthday parties, showers, celebrations of life, community events, weddings and family gatherings.

For Bookings email Ruth Sigurdson
(thornhillcommunityhallmr@gmail.com)
For more information thornhillhall.ca
26007-98th Avenue, Maple Ridge, BC





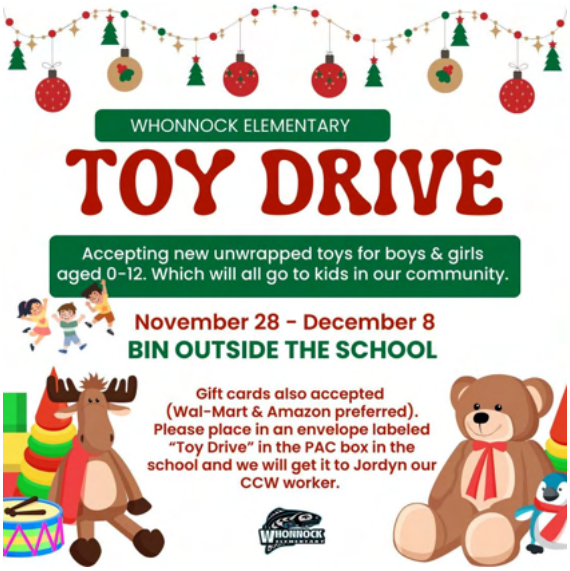
THORNHILL AQUIFER PROTECTION STUDY (TAPS)

This was the summer that those of us with shallow wells had to haul water from time to time and for some, it was several times a week. We measured all the deep wells and our aquifer has provided consistent water levels. This is likely due to careful usage and no major disruptions to the aquifer. The shallow wells were affected by the drought. Those of us in the TAPS program are very aware of the need to conserve and not waste water. All the testing in June came back consistent as it has been for the past 20 years of the TAPS program.

Exercise your right to vote for a new Council including some who served in the last term. We have had some relative peace here on Thornhill and Whonnock for the past 4 years. There were no major plans to develop on our aquifer. Be vigilant and see which candidates are leaning toward developing the rural areas as it will affect us greatly.

The Grant Hill Aquifer remains as one of the only aquifers servicing a wide rural area of Maple Ridge at no cost to the City. Our community hall also has very good water quality and quantity. We are fortunate. It has been a good year for the Grant Hill Aquifer. Thanks to all the participants in our program and to the community who helps to care for it as well.

Betty & Klaus von Hardenberg
On Behalf of TAPS



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THE BC PIONEER TRUCK SOCIETY AT WHONNOCK

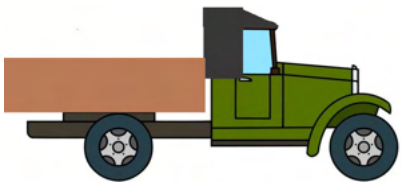
The BC Pioneer Truck Society, a non-profit, family oriented society, dedicated to the preservation, restoration, and enjoyment of vintage trucks, held their annual picnic in Whonnock on July 19th, celebrating the 40th year for the club. This year the picnic was held at Paul and Gloria Stanley's house on 112th Ave. Last year the event took place at Whonnock Lake, but with the popularity of the picnic area, the club feared it might be difficult to park their vintage trucks safely.

The club always welcomes new members. The only requirement is that you have an interest in the history of trucks and/or trucking, trucks of all makes and sizes. You do not have to own a vintage vehicle. The annual membership is $40 per family, and meetings take place at the Lions Hall in Fort Langley.

The club is owner of a 1910 International Harvester Corporation Autowagon truck. It is fully functional and licensed for the road. The Autowagon was restored over the years by club members and is displayed at car shows and parades in the area. If you would like to contact us, email bcpioneer@telus.net.

The BC Pioneer Truck Society is a registered non-profit society, listed with the BC Government. We are a small club, and not affiliated with the BC Truck Museum. The club is running a 50/50 lottery to help keep up maintenance and pay for insurance so that we can keep this piece of Canadian history available to the public. If you like to purchase tickets go online at https://bcpioneer.rafflenexus.com/s/jzC2YU_3LaP0Y. Or go to https://rafflenexus.com/discover/ and search "BC Pioneer".





WHONNOCK GIANT PUMPKIN CONTEST

If your came..🎃

To the 8th annual Whonnock Giant pumpkin contest...

Then you got to see the 1459 pound winning pumpkin, the cutest gourd and the most spectacular lake side photo booth ever with straw bales donated by Bruce's Market and free photos by Tony Rodney Photography.

You got to drink free hot chocolate from Tim Hortons and delicious cupcakes from Purple Heather Bake shop while you guessed the weights of the pumpkins.

You got to see prize giveaways from many local businesses including loads of Jars of Happy from our farm, Rainbow Eggs Farm.

The crowds were lighter this year (meaning more cupcakes for all 🧁) but the smiles were even bigger...and the volunteers were priceless.

The weather was picture perfect and a good day was had by all..including a few rogue sheep.

Thank you to the following business and association for your contribution of prizes and or funds to the Whonnock Giant Pumpkin Contest (not already noted above)

- Whonnock Community Association
- Golden Ears Farms
- Hanks Trucking and Bulldozing
- Lordco Maple Ridge
- Sanscorp
- The Llama Company
- Erin Goodman
- Kourtney Turner
- JM Media/Johnston Meier Insurance
- Purple Heather Bake Shop
- Ealesandealesrealestate
- Bruce's Market
- The Grateful Lather

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ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Anglican Church in Whonnock continues to worship Sundays at 1 pm at the brown church on the left as you start uphill from the post office. You are welcome to join us any Sunday.

This summer, we joined our neighbours at the Garden of Heaven Mosque for interfaith dialogue and a social time.

The 'Romp Around Rolley' walkathon raised $2500 for relief efforts in the Ukraine, and this amount is being matched by a generous donor, for a total of $5000.

'Bell Ringing for Peace' has become a November 11 tradition at Holy Spirit. Please join us on Remembrance Day at 5:15 pm for a time of stories of war service and yearning for peace, followed by the bell-ringing at sundown to enforce our commitment to peace.

We are planning special events for Advent and Christmas. Please check the Holy Spirit website for details of our giving tree, and our Christmas Eve service.

Rev. Vineet is in his office at the church most Thursdays and welcomes neighbours to stop by to chat. Call first just to make sure he's there that day – 778-874-1539.

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. e-mail to info@whonnock.ca

PROGRAMS AT WHONNOCK BY CITY OF MAPLE RIDGE

Maple Ridge

PILATES BY THE LAKE
Age: 16Y+
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, & better posture. Grab your mat and join us!
LOCATION: WHONNOCK LAKE CENTRE

HATHA YOGA
Age: 16Y+
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.
LOCATION: WHONNOCK LAKE CENTRE

FISHING 101
Age: 6Y-8Y
Perfect for beginners, this hands-on program introduces you to the basics of fishing in a relaxed, supportive setting. Learn how to cast, tie knots, handle gear, and understand local fish species and regulations. Whether it's your first time or you're brushing up on the basics, you'll leave with the confidence to fish on your own. Please note: We provide all the necessary equipment-just bring your curiosity! This program runs rain or shine, so dress for the weather and get ready for a fun day outdoors.
INSTRUCTOR: SPORTS RECREATION STAFF
LOCATION: WHONNOCK LAKE

For more information visit the following URL:
https://cld.bz/IR5JiPe

FOR ADVERTISING IN THE NEWSLETTER PLEASE SEND YOUR INQUIRIES TO info@whonnock.ca

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