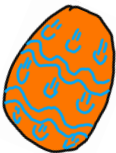




Whonnock Community Association

# WHONNOCK NEWS



*Spring 2025*

## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

We welcome you to the Spring 2025 edition of the Whonnock News. Here is the update on what we have worked on since our last edition in the Fall.

We hosted an All – Candidates meeting in early October, prior to the Provincial Election. The event was well attended by our community, and our voices were shared with the candidate that came to hear from our East Maple Ridge/Mission electoral district. The event shifted to a Panel question period, and we were able to have three community panelists ask questions to the one MLA who attended – Bob D’Eith.

The 6th Annual Pumpkin Contest was a huge success in October, we thank Pascale and Joanne for their continued efforts to have events in our community that support and foster such a positive, lasting impact.

We hosted our Volunteer Appreciation Tea in November, this is an excellent way to highlight and recognize folks in our community that make an impact! If you are active in our community, please let us know so we can highlight your efforts and include you in our celebration!

We hosted our annual Remembrance Day observances at the community hall on November 11th, Jenise and the 1st Whonnock Scouts were able to take over the reins of this important event and did a great job!

We are looking forward to two events in April (Save the dates!) our annual Spring Easter Egg hunt – April 20th, and new this year – we are organizing a BINGO night – April 27th! The One Book Whonnock group has selected their book “Permanent Astonishment” by

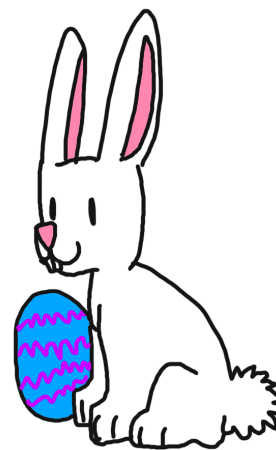
Tomson Highway – and will meet in the early summer to discuss, please reach out to us if you are interested in joining!

New members are always welcome and we meet the third Thursday of each month at the Whonnock Lake Centre at 7:30pm, come join us!

Danika

## ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Presented by the Whonnock Community Association for the people of Whonnock. As usual our Easter Egg Hunt will be on Easter Sunday, **April 20th**, 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 call Jenise at (604) 314-3787.



## 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

### BYRNES BURSARY



This bursary, up to \$2,000 per term, is available to post-secondary students from Whonnock with a proven record of academic achievement. The number of recipients has increased steadily over the last few years, and as a result, rather than making the application process competitive, we chose to adjust the terms of reference to allow for a larger spread of the available funds. There are now two deadlines for application in any given year: January 31 and September 30. For the full terms of reference, please visit our website.

Congratulations to the following students who received the Byrnes Bursary this past year:

- |               |                |              |
|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| Noa Carriere  | Callie Phelps  | Andrew Black |
| Liam Zilinski | Casten Fawcett | Max Meekel   |
| Sophie Lingl  | Jared Schuetz  | Kirsten Funk |

### RUSKIN COMMUNITY HALL



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

Phone or text (604) 462-9739

Email - general - [ruskinhall@yahoo.com](mailto:ruskinhall@yahoo.com)

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/ruskincommunityhall](http://www.facebook.com/ruskincommunityhall)

Website - [www.ruskinhall.com](http://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 pm. Everyone is welcome.

The hall is available for rental at hourly, daily or weekend 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, [bookings@ruskinhall.com](mailto:bookings@ruskinhall.com), or [www.ruskinhall.com](http://www.ruskinhall.com).

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

We are currently fundraising for the purchase and installation of an elevator lift. Check out our website for the progress and how you can help. See [www.ruskinhall.com](http://www.ruskinhall.com) for more information on upcoming events.



## TAPS (Thornhill Aquifer Protection Study)



2025 marks the 19th year that TAPS has been keeping records on the wells both deep and shallow on the Grant Hill Aquifer on Thornhill.

Fortunately, development whether it is urban housing or light industrial has not yet taken place. We cannot stress enough that you should all be measuring your well depths quarterly, so that you have a record of your well's behaviour consistently through the seasons. If your well is impacted suddenly or you are losing water quantity or the well water becomes contaminated, it will be very difficult to prove the source.

\* We received an email from Sunny Schiller (Councillor) that the City will be reviewing the OCP in the next weeks to determine the changes that Council would like to make. The OCP has not been reviewed since 2006. The Province is mandating a review every 5 years.

We have specifically addressed the issues around Urban Forestry as this will impact our watershed greatly. Please keep informed and write Mayor, Council and Scott Hartman CEO with your concerns. ([mayorandcouncil@mapleridge.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@mapleridge.ca)) and ([shartman@mapleridge.ca](mailto:shartman@mapleridge.ca)). It is your opportunity to be heard.

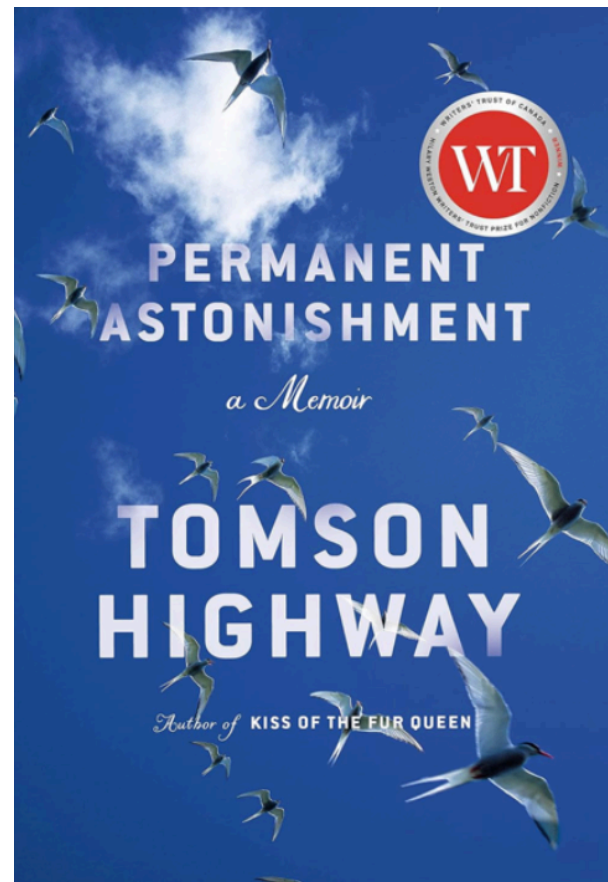
The well water levels and chemical analysis continue to be consistent. Even as climate change is upon us, the wells have not shown any significant changes as yet.

We hope the coming seasons will not be either too hot or too wet. We are so fortunate to have our beautiful 100 year plus trees in our watershed. Take a walk through the forest of our special watershed this year.

Betty & Klaus von Hardenberg  
On behalf of TAPS

## ONE BOOK WHONNOCK

This year, for our project to read and later discuss together, we have chosen *Permanent Astonishment* by Tomson Highway. In it, the author recounts his life in northern Manitoba from birth (on a snowbank!) to age fifteen. In the words of one reviewer, it “is a stirring, powerful account of finding joy on the upper side of hardship and beauty in both darkness and light. Recounted in musical English prose inflected with Cree words and concepts, it’s a vision of a vanished world and a keen insight into one of Canada’s most important writers.” I loved the book, and I know of several others who did as well.



The book is available at the local library. We are planning to have a gathering in early summer, hopefully outdoors, to talk about the book – and, as always, other things that will come to mind. If you would like to participate, please contact Helmi at [braches@shaw.ca](mailto:braches@shaw.ca), or give me a call at (604) 462-8942.



## HOLY SPIRIT ANGLICAN CHURCH

Welcoming Rev. Vineet to the Anglican Church



The Anglican Church in Whonnock is excited to welcome Rev. Vineet Jerry Samuel, a priest with a unique blend of artistic passion and spiritual devotion. With a background in fine arts, advertising, and graphic design, he now brings his creativity to ministry. Vineet is committed to connecting arts and scripture, fostering meaningful relationships, and strengthening community. His approach blends faith and creativity, offering a fresh and inclusive path for spiritual growth.

Vineet grew up in a Christian family in Delhi, India, but like many of his generation, he was drawn to the allure of fame and material success. A transformative experience led him to seek the divine, ultimately bringing him to the church. Deepening in spiritual maturity, Vineet pursued theological studies with a passion for connecting arts and religion.

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

Ordained as a priest, he worked in diverse international settings, advocating for refugees, asylum seekers, and human trafficking victims. His commitment to the migrant community led him to Canada, where he is pursuing a post-graduate thesis on “Migration, Faith, and the Arts” at Regent College, UBC. Vineet believes that arts is a powerful way to engage with faith and connect with the modern world, especially in welcoming migrants.

Vineet is usually at the church most Thursdays from mid-morning to mid-afternoon—call ahead to confirm (778-874-1539). You can also join in for Sunday worship at 1:00 pm, followed by coffee. Vineet, his wife Veronica, and their two teenagers will be moving to Maple Ridge at the end of the school year. You might just see him on the Ruskin bus!



## BEARS ARE BACK



Bear season has started. Multiple vehicles have been broken into by bears. They have learned to open a car door. They can do a lot of damage and can easily write your car off once inside. Keep all food and attractants out of your vehicle and keep them locked. We need to live with the bears not in conflict with them. We are planning another bear aware meeting for later this spring. We will have another Bear Aware meeting on Thursday, May 22. More details to follow.

WCA Bear Task Force



## WHONNOCK WEAVERS AND SPINNERS

The Whonnock Weavers and Spinners would like to send a heartfelt Thank You to the Whonnock Community Association for their continued support of our Exhibit and Sale. This year, on Sunday November 24, we filled the hall with beautiful handwoven and hand spun items, as well as pottery and woodwork from a few guest artists. We welcomed hundreds of customers who attended our 43 RD annual offering. The odd shaft of sunlight shone through the skylights to complete a very satisfying day, and we thank all of you who attended. We will be back next year on Sunday, November 30, and we hope to see you there.



Our 45 members took a well-deserved break over the holidays to spend time with our families and refresh our creative spirits. This spring our emphasis is on weaving, especially using small, portable looms. We hope to have some of the items we create this way for donating to the WCA Bingo and fundraiser. We will also continue this direction in May by having a two-day weaving workshop taught by two of our excellent master weavers (our way to support Canada and “buy local”).

Once again, we look forward to a summer full of fibre fun – spinning and dyeing fibre from local sheep, as well as more exotic breeds from far places such as Australia. The results of all this will be at Country Fest, where we encourage the public to explore the world of spinning and weaving.

We 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 location that accommodates many of our members who live in places like Surrey, New Westminster, and even Osoyoos.

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.wvsg.ca](http://www.wvsg.ca) or follow us on Facebook or Instagram.

# Camp Whonnock



**Dates:** July 14th - August 22nd

**Ages:** 5-12

**Location:** 27660 Dewdney Trunk Rd., Maple Ridge, BC

**Prices:** \$225 (members) or \$275 (non-members) per week

Looking for an adventure this summer? Camp Whonnock day camps emphasize outdoor skills, foster self-confidence, and promote teamwork all while having a blast!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE OR REGISTER NOW!



[linktr.ee/camp.whonnock](http://linktr.ee/camp.whonnock)



LEARN ABOUT OUR WEEKLY THEMES AND ACTIVITIES BELOW!

## WEEKLY THEMES!



### 1 Animal Planet

Take a walk on the wild side this week as we explore the wonders of the animal kingdom. From the depths of the ocean to the heart of the jungle, you'll be ROARING for more!



### 4 Enchanted Forest

The magic of the woods awaits! From playful woodland creatures to mystical quests, if you love exploring nature, fantasy, and a little bit of mystery, this week will surely leave you spellbound!



### 2 Lost in Space

Calling all astronauts - join us on a journey to infinity and beyond! As you marvel at the wonders of the galaxy, these galactic adventures will be out of this world!



### 5 Jurassic Adventures

Step back in time to a prehistoric world where dinosaurs ruled the Earth, and curious campers got to explore it all! Where T-rexes roar and volcanoes rumble, young palaeontologists always have a DINO-mite time!



### 3 Survivor Week

Put your survivor skills to the test as you tackle challenges and adventures alongside your fellow castaway campers. Do you have what it takes to secure a victory on the island?



### 6 Crafty Campers

Grab your paintbrush and get ready to unleash your inner artist! We'll let colors and imagination run wild as we craft up some fun and create nothing short of a masterpiece!



Program activities include archery, hiking, outdoor cooking, swimming, canoeing, fire and shelter building, and more!



## MAPLE RIDGE PARKS & LEISURE PROGRAMS:



# Maple Ridge

Details of the following programs held at Whonnock venues are published in the Parks Recreation & Culture Guide, Spring 2025. Pick up a printed copy of the program guide at City Hall. For a digital version of the guide and registration :

<https://user-nov9gru.cld.bz/MR-SPRING-Program-Guide-2025-FA/3/>

### KAYAK/CANOE PADDLING SPRING CAMP

Age: 8-14Y

Learn kayak and canoe paddling in a fun and safe environment on Whonnock Lake. Learn basic skills of water safety, posture, stroke technique, coordination and balance in recreational kayaks and canoes. A variety of outdoor games and activities are included in the camp. Participants are briefly introduced to racing kayaks and canoes. Ridge Canoe and Kayak Club provides adaptive equipment to aid participants of all abilities to experience paddling.

### 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.

### RCKC'S PADDLING PALS

Age: 8-12Y

The Ridge Canoe and Kayak paddling pals is an after-school paddling program that introduces children to the sport of sprint canoe/kayak in a fun, safe and team-oriented environment. The program is run by our CanoeKids certified coaches. We focus on teaching the FUNdamentals of paddling by developing a foundation for movement skills, coordination, balance and teamwork. Promoting outdoor activity; our multi-sport/ activity-based program will help keep the children engaged, active and having fun, with plenty of

time for free play and socialization. Not to mention developing a new set of paddling skill.

### LEARN TO PADDLE

Age: 8-14Y

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.

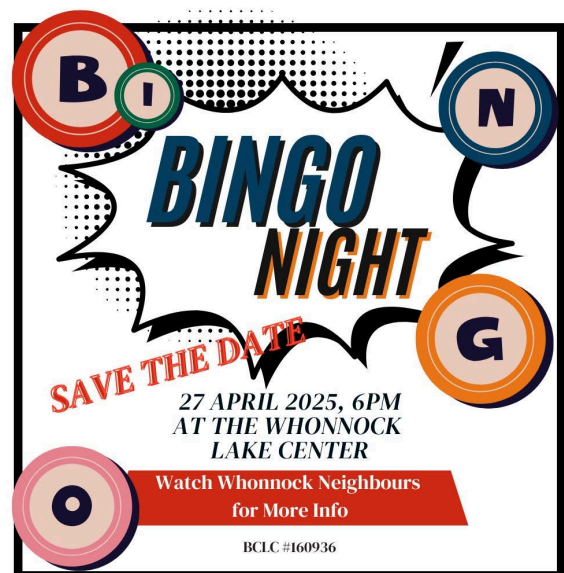
### ADULT LEARN TO KAYAK

Age: 19Y +

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 coaches, and all equipment is included.

### FIRST WHONNOCK SCOUTS

Our group has been growing. We now have three sections: Beavers (ages 5-7), Cubs (ages 8-10), and Scouts (ages 11-14). If your child wishes to join us 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](mailto:1stwhonnockscouts@gmail.com) for more information about our local group.



## GREAT CYCLE CHALLENGE CANADA

My name is Paul Stanley and this August, I'll be riding to end childhood cancer and save little lives. This will be my 9th year, and I have raised \$22,397 dollars and I have ridden 3,608 kms.

Please donate on my personal page, or find a rider on the GCC website. Even better, join up for the ride. The way the ride works is, pledge the amount you would like to try to collect, and pledge the amount of kilometres you wish to ride within the month of August. You choose the routes, and you can even use an e-bike if that's what you like, or even spin indoors. This ride is for everyone.

GCC has lots of support, a tracking app for your distances, and ideas on fundraising. You will have a personal page and donors will receive a tax receipt. The first 3,000 individual riders to raise \$500 will receive a cycling jersey with the GCC logo on it.

For more information go to [greatcyclechallenge.ca](https://greatcyclechallenge.ca)



<https://greatcyclechallenge.ca/Riders/PaulStanley>

Please sponsor my ride via my page:



**GREAT CYCLE CHALLENGE**  
SickKids  
I'm riding to fight kids Cancer!  
Because kids should be living life, NOT fighting for it.

## THORNHILL COMMUNITY HALL

26007- 98th Avenue, Maple Ridge

The Thornhill Community Hall has been in operation since the mid sixties, when some forward thinking, community minded volunteers built and cared for the hall. Still today, the Hall is rented and cared for by volunteers who take pride in providing a meeting place at a very reasonable price. One of the very few.

Our community and members outside our community have supported this Hall and rented it for many special events. We continue to increase the numbers of rentals and appreciate the support.

Janis Dowling gave the Hall a donation on behalf of her mother Mrs. Loveless, who was a longtime resident of Thornhill. We used the donation to make a new bar and will be putting up a plaque to show our appreciation of this donation. Thank you Janis. For viewing and rental inquiries please call Fran Norman at 604-462-7869.



**WHONNOCK ELEMENTARY** Whonnock Elementary

# SPRING MARKET

27471 112 Ave, Maple Ridge

**SUNDAY, MAY 4**

**10 - 3**

over 50 vendors both indoor & outdoor  
accepting food bank donations  
raffle baskets food trucks  
free admission



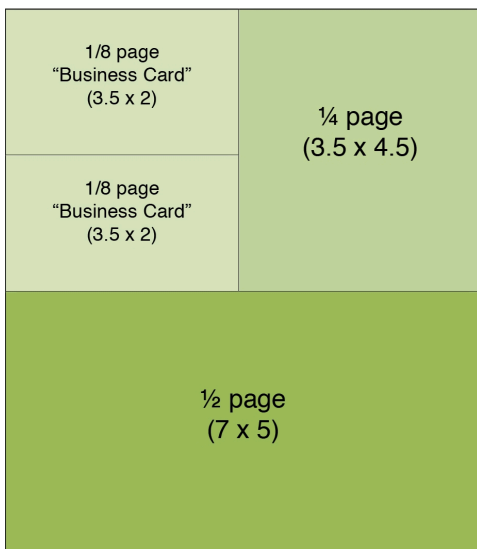


## ADVERTISING IN WHONNOCK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Whonnock Community Association’s newsletter gets exclusively distributed to communities around East Maple Ridge. It also provides small and medium-sized businesses with effective local reach via print and website includes archives.

Our newsletter is all about local updates that get published twice (Spring & Fall) a year. We are contemplating on attracting sponsorships or charging a small fee for advertising here. We look forward to your input sent to [webmaster@whonnock.ca](mailto:webmaster@whonnock.ca)

Advertising formats:



See Whonnock News in colour at [whonnock.ca](http://whonnock.ca)

## 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](mailto:webmaster@whonnock.ca)



Whonnock Community Association  
PO Box 134  
Whonnock BC V2W 1V9

