



Whonnock Community Association WHONNOCK NEWS



Fall 2025

Dear Neighbors,

As autumn settles over our beautiful corner of the world, I find myself reflecting on what makes Whonnock such a special place to call home. It's not just the scenic views, the quiet trails, or the changing leaves — it's you. The people. The everyday moments of kindness, laughter, and neighbourly connection that remind us of the strength we share when we come together.

This year has already been a heartwarming one for our community. Our very **first Bingo Fundraiser** this past spring brought a full house, lots of laughter, and generous contributions that will help support ongoing community initiatives. Thank you to everyone who joined in the fun — and to our volunteers who made it all possible!. Our next Bingo will be on Mar 1st, 2026.

This summer, **Helmi's Estate Sale** was more than just a chance to find treasures — it became a gathering place. Friends reconnected, stories were shared, and we were reminded of the deep roots and rich histories that live here in Whonnock. A heartfelt thank you to the Helmi family and all who participated — it was a true community effort.

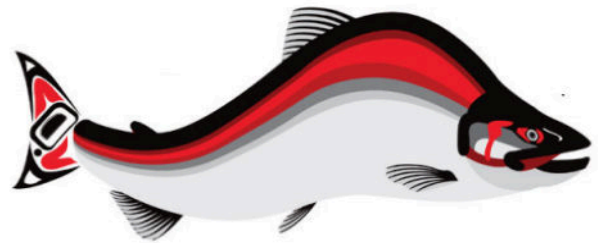
And now, with pumpkins ripening in gardens across the neighbourhood, we're wrapping up our fall festivities! Our **Giant Pumpkin Contest** has come to a close — and what a fantastic display of creativity and community spirit it was. Thank you to everyone who took part, from those who grew monster pumpkins to those who shared their modest marvels. It's a true celebration of growing things — not just pumpkins, but our neighbourhood spirit.

These events show what we can accomplish when we come together with kindness, creativity, and a willingness to pitch in. Let's keep that energy going. Whether it's checking in on a neighbour, lending your voice to one of our meetings, or volunteering an hour or two at the hall, every action counts.

Whonnock isn't just where we live — it's who we are. Let's keep building a place where kindness thrives, connections grow, and everyone feels at home.

With gratitude and community pride,

Danika Adamthwaite
President, Whonnock Community Association



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 COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BINGO COMMITTEE

Would like to thank those who donated to our Bingo Fundraiser

Donors

Marv Jones Honda
Whonnock Weavers
Crafty Farmgirl
Kaos Customs Apparel
The Nut
Sammy J's
McFli's
Slam Bang Fishing Lodge
Monat - Alison Molstad
Merle's Glass Art
Peter Gong
Paul Simms
Dan Swiestra
Kathleen Wright
Janice Hodge
Dawn's Custom Designs
Fizzy Bubbles - Jean Johnson
Meadows Family Farm
Chris Rishchynski

Cash Donors

Whonnock Weavers
Andrew and Kelley Hanson
Drake Excavating

THANK YOU!!!

1ST WHONNOCK SCOUTS

Our revitalized group continues to flourish with Beavers (ages 5-7), Cubs (ages 8-10), and Scouts (ages 11-14). We are always looking for more adults to help us! If you are interested in joining as a volunteer or to register your youth, please visit scouts.ca or contact our Group Commissioner Jenise, at 1stwhonnockscoutgroup@gmail.com.



We meet at Camp Whonnock on both Mondays and Tuesdays starting at 6:30pm.

TAPS (Thornhill Aquifer Protection Study) www.tapsmapleridge.ca

The members of TAPS are completing their 19th year of well measuring, data collection and record keeping at the end of 2025. We have a core number of original members who have been part of the program since 2006 and a handful of others who kindly share their data with us.

In 2024, Dan Ruimy (Mayor) assured a resident that there wouldn't be development on Thornhill. As we are nearing the end of 2025, this Council has focussed on industrial development on 256th and urban density development is centred around the town core. Zoning can always change depending on the focus of Councils, so TAPS will always remain vigilant and stay the course.

The wells in the program have remained consistent even though our summers are longer and drier. We encourage all well owners to take care of their wells and keep consistent records that you can rely on and reflect on when changes occur.

Thornhill is a very special community in Maple Ridge. With our consistent care and diligence, it will remain a special rural part of Maple Ridge. We feel grateful for the opportunity to live here.

Betty & Klaus von Hardenberg
On behalf of TAPS



WHONNOCK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BURSARY

Congratulations to the 2025, WCA bursary recipient, Phoebe Dang.

Phoebe Dang is enrolled in the Douglas College Music diploma program as well as getting her Early Childhood Education Assistant license. Phoebe hopes to work with children, 'inspiring and engaging them' through music. 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.

ANGLICAN CHURCH

A New Season of Beauty and Renewal at Holy Spirit Anglican Church, Whonnock

A warm wave of renewal is flowing through Holy Spirit Anglican Church. We are learning to see faith and community through the lens of art and beauty, finding God's presence in creativity, compassion, and collaboration.



From our Romp Around Rolley Walkathon, which raised over \$4,500 for the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, to joining the Whonnock Mosque's BBQ supporting flood victims in Pakistan, beauty has taken shape through acts of love. Participating at the Whonnock Cemetery Headstone Restoration and visioning with St. John the Divine, Maple Ridge, reflect shared hope for renewal and connection. As we prepare for our Remembrance Day 'Ring of the Bell for Peace' and look ahead to Christmas outreach, Holy Spirit continues to celebrate faith as a living art, colouring our community with harmony, gratitude, and grace.

Upcoming Events:

Archbishop's Visit: Sun, Nov 16 at 11:00 am - joint service with St. John the Divine.

Mitten Tree: Donate new mittens, socks, scarves, and gloves to help those in need.

Christmas Eve Carol Service: Wed, Dec 24 at 7:00 pm - come early to sing favourite carols!

Ph.: 604-462-7341 | Email:
HolySpiritAnglican.Whonnock@gmail.com



Website: www.holyspiritanglican.ca |
facebook.com/HolySpiritAnglicanChurchWhonnock
Worship with us Sundays at 1:00 pm, followed by refreshments.

THORNHILL COMMUNITY HALL



This unique Community Hall is nestled in a park surrounded by mature evergreens. It is home to Frisbee Golf, tennis, children's playground and a lovely little community hall completely maintained by volunteers. It is home to family events, fundraisers, Memorial services, weddings, birthday parties, holiday events and Tai Chi.

We continue to be consistently booked. Many events are secured well in advance. This year the Community Association had our solid wood second hand floor completely renovated and resurfaced for use for many, many years. We appreciated all the hard work it took for Bogdan to give our old floor a new extended life. It was expensive for us, but the investment was well worth it for years of future enjoyment.

The Hall is rented consistently and we appreciate all the support within and outside our community. New members are always welcome.

We believe what General James H Dolittle is quoted as saying, "There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer."

For rental inquiries, call Fran Norman at 604-462-7869.

Please visit www.thornhillhall.ca for more information.

Trivia: Which year was Whonnock Post Office first established?

WHONNOCK GIANT PUMPKIN CONTEST

The 7th annual **Whonnock Giant Pumpkin Contest** was held on Sunday, October 19th, at Whonnock Lake and was a big hit.

The torrential rains of the morning stopped almost exactly at the start of the event. The heaviest pumpkin was 642 pounds, with the second and third at 559 and 480, respectively.

The lakeside photo booth was, once again, a popular stop, along with the hot chocolate and cupcakes.

Many left the contest talking about how they want to participate next year.

A generous contribution from the Whonnock Community Association and a small grant from the City of Maple Ridge, many donations from businesses in the community, and all volunteers helped make this FREE community event one to remember.



[Photo taken by Charleen]

WHONNOCK WEAVERS AND SPINNERS

After a busy and creative summer of dyeing and spinning, the members of the Whonnock Weavers and Spinners are happy to get back to their looms and prepare for our 44th Annual Juried Exhibit and Sale. This event is always the last Sunday in November, and this year the date is Sunday, November 30 from 10 AM to 4PM at Whonnock Lake Centre. We anticipate welcoming you there, where you will find an assortment of fibre articles – woven scarves, tea towels and jackets, knitted hats, baskets and many more items. We also tempt you with coffee, tea and homemade cookies. As well, a few guest artists will complement the fibre with pottery, woodwork and ironwork. As in past years, we hope to see many of you there.

Handweaving, Handspinning & Handknitting

Whonnock Weavers & Spinners Guild

44th Juried Exhibit & Sale

Sunday, November 30, 2025
10 am to 4 pm

Whonnock Lake Centre
at Whonnock Lake Park, Maple Ridge

Basketry, Felting & Guest Artists

www.wwsg.ca

Much of our summer was spent preparing for our exhibit at Country Fest. We dyed local fleeces in bright colours that appealed to the many children who visited us in the curling rink. There they were helped to blend the colours using a drum carder, then took their colourful “stash” to a spinner who helped them to spin a bracelet which was promptly tied around their wrist.

Other children chose to weave a mug rug with the help of one of our weavers. These were distributed to the young weavers in September after a group of our members finished the ends. We had well over 200 children and parents visit with us over the two days of Country Fest. If you have never attended this wonderful community event, we hope to see you there next July.

We are a vibrant and growing group of fibre artists, and welcome anyone with the same “addiction”. 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.

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.

WHONNOCK WINTER MARKET



Whonnock Elementary will again be hosting their annual Winter Market hosting over 40 vendors, 2 food trucks, raffle baskets all to raise funds for our school and students. The event will be held on November 16th from 10am - 3pm and can be found on Facebook here: www.facebook.com/whonnockhandmademarkets

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 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, bookings@ruskinhall.com, or www.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.

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 for more information on upcoming events.

PROGRAMS AT WHONNOCK BY CITY OF MAPLE RIDGE



Location: Whonnock Lake Centre

HATHA YOGA

Age: 16Y and up

PILATES BY THE LAKE

Age: 16Y and up

Location: Whonnock Elementary

RCKC'S PADDLING PALS

Age: 8Y -12Y

Instructor: RCKC

SPORTS, GAMES, FITNESS & FUN FOR YOUTH

Age: 8Y -12Y

Instructor: RCKC

Location: Whonnock Lake Park

FISHING 101

Age: 7Y and up

Instructor: SPORT RECREATION STAFF

EVENING AT THE LAKE (GUIDED HIKE)

Age: 5Y and up

Instructor: K&M OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

BASIC STAND-UP PADDLEBOARD LESSONS

Age: 16Y and up

Instructor: WEST COAST SUP ADVENTURES

Location: Whonnock Lake

MAPLE RIDGE GUIDED BIRDING WALKS

Age: 9Y - 12Y

Instructor: RAPTORS RIDGE BIRDS OF PREY

For more information visit the following URL:

<https://user-nov9gru.cld.bz/City-of-Maple-Ridge-Fall-2025-Program-Guide>

Save the date: Whonnock Community Association's 2nd **Bingo** fundraiser will be held on **2nd March 2026**.

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



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.



Whonnock Community
Association
PO Box 134
Whonnock BC V2W 1V9

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

