

Whonnock Community Association

WHONNOCK

NEWS

Spring 2026

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

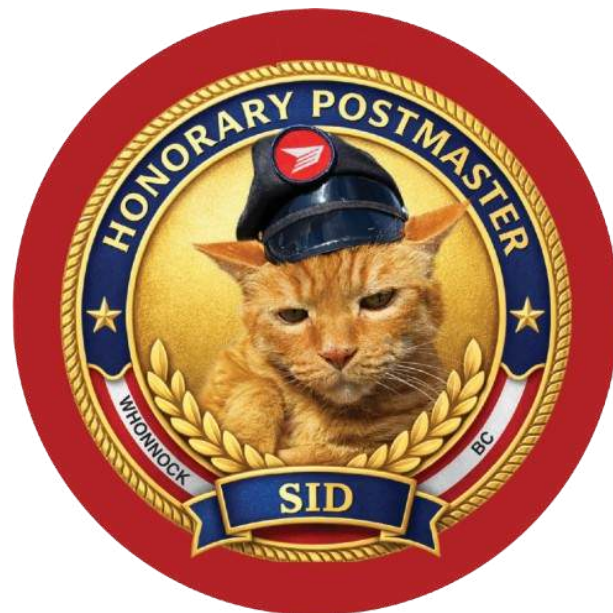
Spring is finally starting to show itself in Whonnock, and it feels like our community is coming back to life again after the winter months. As always, it's been wonderful to see neighbours coming together, lending a hand, and supporting the events that help keep our little corner of the world so special.

On behalf of the Whonnock Community Association, I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who came out to support our recent Bingo fundraiser. Events like this only succeed because of the people who show up, volunteer, donate prizes, and spend the evening laughing with friends and neighbours. Your support truly makes a difference and helps us continue to host activities and improvements that benefit the whole community.

We would also like to give a special shout-out to one of Whonnock's most beloved "officials" — our Official Postmaster, Sid the cat. Sid continues to faithfully supervise the comings and goings at the post office, greeting visitors and making sure everyone feels welcome. Of course, every good public figure needs a great publicist, so a big thank you as well to Paul Stanley for keeping Sid's fan club informed and entertained.

Most of all, thank you to all of our neighbours for making Whonnock such a warm and welcoming place to live. It's the people here who make this community what it is — supportive, friendly, and proud of where we live. We're looking forward to a wonderful spring and to seeing many of you at upcoming community events.

Danika Adamthwaite



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 5th**, at Whonnock Lake Centre. The hunt will start at **11:00 am** sharp, rain or shine! We will have three areas for our hunt, separated by child's age. In each area, there will be three golden coins to find. If you find a golden coin, you can trade it in for a gift basket.

Bring your own basket!



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 MONDAY OF THE MONTH 7:30 PM TILL JUNE 2026 THEN THIRD THURSDAY OF JUNE AT WHONNOCK LAKE CENTRE

THORNHILL COMMUNITY HALL



The Thornhill Community Association has undergone some changes this year. We are under New Management. Fran and Al Norman left as Volunteer Members of our association. We welcome our new Booking Clerk, Ruth Sigurdson. We have made changes to streamline booking through a user friendly, convenient, digital format. Booking inquiries and Rental Agreements can all be completed Online on the Thornhill Hall Website.

We are planning some renovations this year to spruce up the Hall. Our volunteers did a major “spring cleaning” at the end of last month. We thank the City for

trimming back the branches from our roofline to limit the debris falling on our roof. They are also cutting back the encroaching blackberries.

We are excited for our New Year!

For information and booking inquiries:
 Website - www.thornhillhall.ca
 Email - thornhillcommunityhallmr@gmail.com
 Location- 26007- 98th Avenue, Maple Ridge

FIRST WHONNOCK SCOUTS

At the present, our little group is at capacity. We have Beavers (ages 5-7), Cubs (ages 8-10), and Scouts (ages 11-14). We always welcome new volunteers to work with any age or with our Group Committee.



New youth registrations for September 2026 will start on June 1st. If you have any questions, please feel free to email 1stwhonnockscoutgroup@gmail.com

THANK YOU BINGO DONNORS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Andrew & Kelley Hanson | Whonnock Weavers |
| Jacqlyn Rempel & Julya Hughes | Merles Glass Art |
| A Pinch of Sugar and Spice | Kathleen Wright |
| The Crafty Farmgirl | Lenore Elliot |
| Scentsy- Toni Simpkin | McFli's |
| Rainbow Egg Farms | Anita Sparrow |
| Meadow Green Nurseries | Raven & Rose |
| Meadows Family Farm | Jodi Rapson |
| Doug & Noreen Woods | Sarah Cheltenham |



WHONNOCK POST OFFICE

Tucked along River Road in the rural community of Whonnock, in east Maple Ridge, the Whonnock Post Office stands as more than a mail stop — it is one of the last enduring symbols of how small settlements in British Columbia were built and held together.



Postal service in Whonnock dates back to 1885, when the first office operated out of a general store run by the community's inaugural postmaster, Noble Oliver. At a time when the Canadian Pacific Railway was opening the region to settlers, the post office quickly became a critical hub — linking isolated homesteads with the outside world and anchoring what would become a tight-knit rural community.

The current building, reconstructed in 1932 after earlier versions were lost or replaced, still occupies a central position in the community core. Small in scale but rich in history, it reflects a period when essential services: mail, mailboxes, supplies, etc.

Unlike larger urban centres that transitioned to centralized sorting and home delivery in the mid-20th century, Whonnock's post office retained a distinctly local character. It has long been associated with the role of a traditional postmaster, a position now rare in the Lower Mainland reinforcing its identity as a community institution rather than just a service point.

For residents, the post office has historically functioned as an informal gathering place as much as a communications link. Even as modern infrastructure has reduced dependence on physical mail, the building remains a symbolic and practical anchor for Whonnock's residents to exchange news, maintain social ties, and sustain a shared sense of place.

In 2025 the federal government ended that moratorium that basically protected rural post offices from being closed. This policy change raised concern in small communities across Canada including Whonnock, where local post offices are often essential services and social hubs.

To draw attention and increase community engagement, Paul Stanley initiated a creative campaign by appointing a local cat named Sid as the honorary postmaster.



Sid, a well-known cat in the area, became a symbolic figure representing the importance of maintaining rural postal services. The campaign was inspired by similar successful efforts elsewhere and helped boost local interest.

Recently, Whonnock Post Office was recognized and honored with Stewardship of a Community Cultural Asset Award by the City of Maple Ridge & Maple Ridge Museum.



Maple Ridge News:

<https://mapleridgenews.com/2026/03/09/feline-appointed-honorary-postmaster-of-whonnock-post-office/>
Global News video on sid becomes a post master >
<https://globalnews.ca/video/11730567/sid-the-cat-becomes-postmaster>

Kanagaraj C S

RUSKIN COMMUNITY HALL



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

Phone or text 604-462-9739

email - general - ruskinhall@yahoo.ca

Facebook -

<https://www.facebook.com/ruskincommunityhall>

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 7:30pm. 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 phone/text our Booking Agent at 604-462-9739, bookings@ruskinhall.com, or www.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 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.

TAPS (Thornhill Aquifer Protection Study)

The Thornhill Aquifer Protection Study (TAPS), is entering its 20th year of water monitoring on the Grant Hill Aquifer. 20 years ago, Klaus and I never thought we would still be monitoring wells for so long, but here we are today feeling proud of all the steadfast members old and new who have supported the program and continued to work together for all these many years. We are also grateful to Federal, Provincial and Local Governments who have supported and challenged us. Still, here we are!

Council passed 3rd reading for approvals to support industrial land planning to North 256th. We are pleased that the suggestion of past Councils to build industrial lands on our Aquifer and watershed has changed. We have just completed our initial deep well measuring in early March and the water quantity remains stable. It is predicted that we may be entering the hottest 5 year period. What can we do?

1. Remove combustible debris to reduce the risks of fire.
2. Remain cautious with water usage.
3. Use compost or deciduous chips to mitigate evaporation.
4. Remove dead and dying branches and trees.
5. Respect burning bylaws during dry times.

Keep our community lands healthy and enjoy the natural beauty through awareness and care for our neighbours.

Betty & Klaus von Hardenberg

THANK YOU NOREEN WOODS

At this time, we would like to recognize Noreen Woods for her tireless dedication to the community. Without her efforts, many of us would not have continued to enjoy the *Whonnock News* following the passing of Fred Braches, who had long been responsible for producing the newsletter.

Did you know? Every member of The Whonnock Community Association is eligible for
1. Free parking & admission to ball games at Ruskin Park **2. Free Admission to the Whonnock Zoo** **3. Complimentary Fresh Air**
 Become a Proud Whonnock Community Member today! > info@whonnock.ca

HOLY SPIRIT ANGLICAN CHURCH



Lent and Easter

Lent is the season of penance which will culminate in the joy of Easter Sunday. You are welcome to join us for any of the special events marking Holy Week, and of course, any Sunday at 1 pm.

Maundy Thursday, April 2 – 4 pm worship service at our partner parish, St John the Divine Anglican Church, 21299 River Rd, Maple Ridge.

Good Friday, April 3 – 10 am worship service at Holy Spirit Anglican, 27133 River Road, Whonnock.

Easter Sunday, April 5 – 1 pm worship service followed by festive refreshments.

'Priest on the Porch' – Any Thursday this summer from 10 am to 2 pm starting June 4 – Drop into the church to chat with Rev Vineet who has now been priest in Whonnock for a year. He welcomes neighbours to stop by to introduce themselves and have a chat about art, your hopes and dreams, or the issues in your life. You may also see our beautiful century-old church.

'Romp Around Rolley' – Saturday, September 19 starting at 10 am at Rolley Lake. Join us for an easy 3km. walk and raise money for a good cause, responding to urgent needs in the Ukraine, through the Anglican charity www.alongsidehope.org. We'd love to have you join us!

'Our Outdoor Giving Tree' – received 50 pairs of warm socks, 11 hats and 20 pairs of mitts during December; they have been passed on to helping agencies to distribute.

You may reach out to the church at any time (604)462-7933 or Rev Vineet (778)874-1539.

holyspiritanglican.whonnock@gmail.com

WHONNOCK WEAVERS AND SPINNERS

Once again, the Whonnock Weavers and Spinners guild would like to say “Thank You” to the Whonnock Community Association for their continued support of our Exhibit and Sale. We would also like to say “Thanks” to the many



Whonnock residents who attended our 44th annual Exhibit and Sale in November. It was a great success, and Whonnock Lake Centre was alive with people visiting, shopping and enjoying our members demonstrating on the stage. We are busy preparing for our 45 th show and sale on Sunday November 29 th , 2026.

As usual, our members took a well-deserved break over the holidays to spend time with our families and refresh our creative spirits. Now we are busy weaving, spinning and making baskets as well as looking forward to expanding our skills with an upcoming workshop on Double Weave.

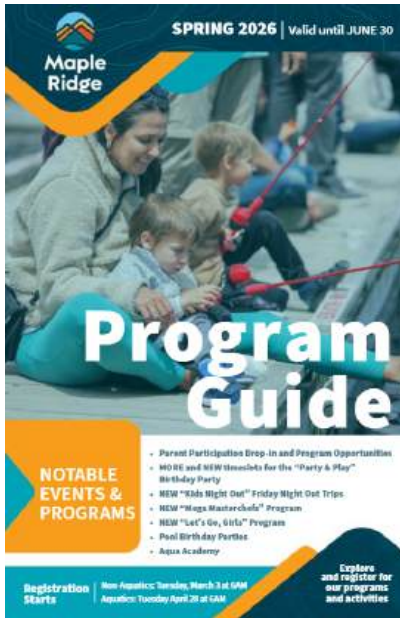
We are also planning a summer full of fibre fun and spinning get togethers with other local guilds in Mission, Langley and Chilliwack. We will also be dyeing fibre from local sheep in preparation for Country Fest. This is an event we love to participate in where we can interact with children and families and share our love of fibre.

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 Coquitlam, 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 or follow us on Facebook or Instagram.

Marie Selsor

MAPLE RIDGE PARKS & LEISURE PROGRAMS:



Details of the following programs held at Whonnock venues are published in the Parks Recreation & Culture Guide, Spring 2026. 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/Spring-2026-Program-Guide>

KAYAK/CANOE PADDLING SPRING CAMP

Age: 8-12Y

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.

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.

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 and better posture. Grab your mat and join us!

EVENING AT THE LAKE

Age: 5Y+

Discover more about the world of frogs, beavers and other wildlife living at Whonnock Lake on this special evening with other wildlife lovers! (Please Note: One registration covers the entire family.)

FAMILY RECREATIONAL KAYAK & CANOE PADDLING

Age: 19Y+

Learn the proper posture, balance, steering, stroke technique and basic water safety skills in kayaks on Whonnock Lake.

LEARN TO PADDLE

Age: 8Y-14Y

Learn proper posture, balance, steering, stroke technique and basic water safety skills in both kayaks and canoes at Whonnock Lake. Instructions are given by Ridge Canoe and Kayak Club coaches and all equipment is included.



RIDGE CANOE AND KAYAK CLUB



Ridge Canoe & Kayak Club is looking forward to another exciting paddling season, beginning with our **Season Opener Regatta** on **May 2–3, 2026**. This event is always a great way to start the season, with clubs joining us from across the Lower Mainland.

This season, RCKC will be hosting three regattas:

- **May 2–3** – Season Opener
- **July 11** – Ridge Invitational
- **September 12–13** – Fort / Ridge Fall Classic

We are grateful to be part of the Whonnock community and to have the opportunity to support youth and community members interested in learning and growing in the sport of paddling.

Whonnock community members who would like to learn more about RCKC programs and summer camps can visit rckc.ca for details.

Be sure to follow us on Instagram for updates throughout the season.



We look forward to another wonderful season on the water.



BYRNES BURSARY

The Byrnes Bursary program grants amounts of up to \$2,500 twice a year 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.

There are two deadlines for application in any given year: January 31 and September 30. For the terms of reference go to whonnock.ca, click Whonnock Community Association and select “bursaries”.

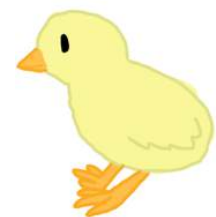
THE WHONNOCK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BURSARY

To apply for the Whonnock Community Association bursary, please check with your school counselor during the fall semester. For those students interested in applying for our Bursary we have the following criteria:

To qualify you must have lived in the Whonnock area for at least 2 years.

- First, we look at a student’s marks which must show a commitment to furthering their education at college, trade school or university.
- Second, we assess financial need.
- Third, we look for a student’s history of volunteering either in the community, the school or other worthy cause.

Good luck to all applicants.

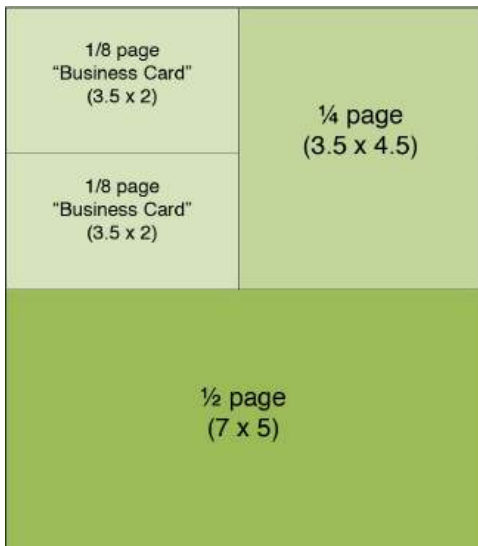
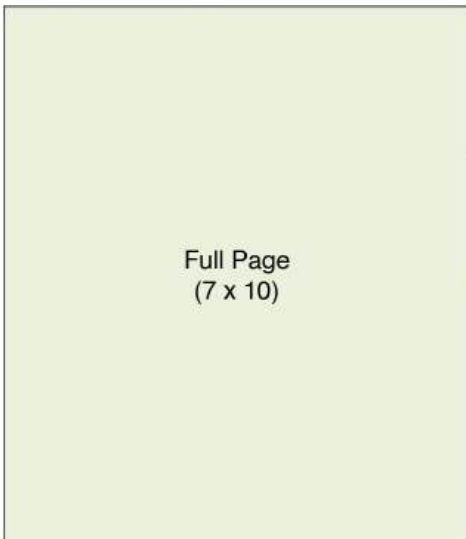


ADVERTISING IN WHONNOCK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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 can carry your advertisement for a small fee. We look forward to hearing from you info@whonnock.ca

Advertising formats:



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 e-mail to info@whonnock.ca.



Whonnock Community Association
PO Box 134
Whonnock BC V2W 1V9

Membership form

Name(s):

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Choose membership type

- Individual Family
- Corporate

Individual = one vote
Family = two votes per household
Corporate = one vote for societies or corporations.