



Published by the Whonnock Community Association

Whonnock News

Spring 2006

President's Report

Hello, and welcome to a brand-new year. The Whonnock Community Association is still doing what it has always done, supporting our local community in a variety of ways. Many people ask what we do and although we do have our big events such as the Annual Whonnock Lake Day, the Volunteer's Dinner, and occasionally a New Year's Dinner and Dance it is the every day ongoing programs running at the Whonnock Lake Centre and Dowco Gym, the offering of the hall to the local school and local charities, our annual bursary, our donations to local groups and support of the community's many heritage issues, publications and buildings and much more that truly define the Whonnock Community Association.

A very important and integral part of the Whonnock Community Association are our volunteers. Although few in numbers, together we add up to well over a hundred years of volunteer work. I would like to mention a couple of long time volunteers who are stepping back from some of their duties after many years of service. Mr. Allan Springman has dedicated more than 20 years to the association working tirelessly in all areas. The WCA would not be what it is today without his work and dedication. Thank you so much Allan. Another long time volunteer is Mrs. Debbie Smith. Often in the background but always working hard Debbie we really appreciate all your efforts, your support and your valued opinion, so don't stay away too much. So to all future volunteers out there, come to a meeting, meet some great dedicated people, a little or a lot, we appreciate all contributions.

Noreen Woods, President, Whonnock Community Association

THE WHONNOCK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION GETS TOGETHER ON THE 3RD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH, 7:30 P.M., AT WHONNOCK LAKE CENTRE. COME AND JOIN US!

Whonnock Lake Centre

A belated Happy New Year! I can't believe the time is going so quickly. It seems like only yesterday that we enrolled our kids in the old Whonnock Elementary School. Now I have a 19 and an almost 21 year old. Wow!

The fall wedding season went quite well and again a lot of happy couples. I've been booking for this year and into the year 2007. It's hard to believe that people make such definite plans so far in advance. Thankfully they do, though, because that is what keeps the Centre up and running and allowing us to have the many programs we do have.

The gardens are just starting to get the spruce up for the spring season. Hopefully the bulbs Maureen planted (kindly donated by the District) will make an appearance. As the trees around the centre are quite large we are getting more shade than before so we need some shade loving plants. Also if any one has any colourful perennial plants that need a new home please give us a call.

Make sure to check out the Web site and the local leisure guide to find out what is going on. Also please contact us with comments or suggestions. E-mail <whonnock@hotmail.com>, call 604-462-8212, or fax to our new fax number 604-462-8216. Lets all hope for a great spring and summer season.

Jo-Ann Bakker, Manager / Caretaker Whonnock Lake Centre

Volunteers Needed in the Following Areas

A BINGO COORDINATOR is needed to organize the once a month volunteer time slot at the Haney Bingo Hall. All groups who use the Whonnock Lake Centre, free of charge, supply volunteers for this service. A coordinator would phone volunteers, schedule the once a month three-hour shift and attend a monthly meeting at the Bingo Hall. Call Noreen at 604-462-8557.

SPEED WATCH and COMMUNITY POLICING are looking for interested volunteers to represent our area. For more information contact Program Coordinator, Annette Clack at 604-467-7644.



Whonnock Community Association Bursary

This \$1,000 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 ask your school counsellors for more information and to get an application package. One of the requirements looked at before rewarding the bursary is a student's commitment to the community, school or other worthy causes through volunteerism. Good luck to all applicants.

The Whonnock Foundation

The Whonnock Foundation granted a Byrnes Bursary for post secondary education of \$2,000 to Michael van Meel. A resident of Whonnock, Van Meel was also the recipient of the first Byrnes Bursary in 2005. The Byrnes Bursaries support van Meel to finish his studies as a student in the robotics and automation program at BCIT this year. For more on the Byrnes Bursary log on to www.whonnock.ca or e-mail <foundation@whonnock.bc.ca>.

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.rcmpgrc.gc.ca/bc/lmd/ridgemeadows/contents.html>

Adopt-A-Block

I continue to monitor the volunteers for adopt-a-block. Some volunteers have moved out of the area and our numbers are down, so please do a bit to help keep our community clean. It only takes about an hour a month and gives you an opportunity to get out and meet your neighbours. You can select an area of your own choosing. I can get a "grabber," vest, and bag to you and provide locations to take the refuse. Thanks to all of those who continue to volunteer. Call Jean Ruttan at 604-462-7794.

Whonnock Archives

Among the recipients of this year's Heritage Achievement Awards of the Maple Ridge Community Heritage Commission is Fred Braches. Fred received the achievement award in recognition of his history and heritage research and publications.

Missing Person

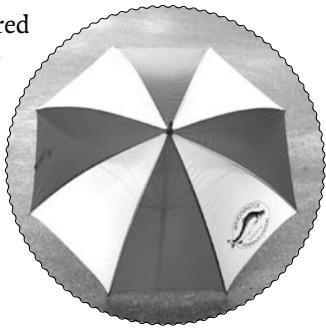
Crystal Hein (604 255 2718) is looking for her school friend Janet White, Ruskin Elementary 1960-1970. Janet lived on 108th.

Whonnock Umbrellas

Our "unusual" winter weather inspired the Whonnock Community Association to create a limited edition 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. Keep dry for \$20!

Dare to show that you are proud of Whonnock.



Byrnes Road

Two years have passed since the Whonnock Community Association asked the municipality to honour the Byrnes family by renaming a small dead-end street in Whonnock. This letter published in the MRP Times of 31 January, 2006 tells the story.

Whonnock road name ignored

Editor:

On Jan. 24, Maple Ridge council opted to rename a stretch of Industrial Avenue as Jackson Road at the request made mid-December 2005 by a subdivision developer.

On Feb. 19, 2004, the Whonnock Community Association requested council rename a dead-end piece of 269th Street off River Road near the post office after the Byrnes family, in recognition of a highly respected pioneer family and, in particular, Brian and Isabel Byrnes, who did so much for our community.

The WCA received a sympathetic letter dated 24 Feb. 2004, from then-mayor Kathy Morse. The WCA wrote again in October, 2004, and February, 2005, asking council to move this matter forward, but did not receive a response. At a suggestion from city hall, the WCA gathered more than 70 supporting signatures in just a few days and asked if

more was needed. They received no response.

We know that the Maple Ridge Community Heritage Commission supported, and still supports, our proposal to rename the street. The minutes show the matter is tabled at their meetings from time to time, however what took a subdivision developer less than a month to accomplish neither the CHC nor the Whonnock Community Association could achieve in two years.

The Byrnes family has lived in Whonnock since 1919. Brian and Isabel donated a priceless collection of artifacts to the Maple Ridge Museum and they left their savings and property for the well-being of Whonnock and Ruskin. How does that compare with the wish of a subdivision developer unhappy with a street named "Industrial"?

I am sure that our community would gladly compensate the few residents of 269th Street for the costs associated with a change of address.

Fred Braches
Whonnock

Wildwood Fellowship Church

We go to church for many reasons. We go hoping to find answers to life, to find acceptance and love, to develop positive friendships, to find a valuable place to serve, and to make our lives count. Most of all, we go to discover more about God and to worship him.

Wildwood Fellowship Church is a family-oriented, non-denominational community church that seeks to meet the needs of young and old alike through different worship styles and opportunities for learning, growing, and getting acquainted together over a cup of coffee. Children can learn about God at our Super Church programs during the service and after-school Kids Club. All kids in Grade 5 – 8 are welcome to come to the Community Jr. Youth Group events held twice a month (check notices in Whonnock Elementary newsletter).

We believe you will find Wildwood Fellowship to be a place that cares about you and your family. We invite you to become a part of what God is doing here in your community. Please call Pastor Arnold Tracey or Eleanor Tracey at 604-462-0610 for more information.

From Whonnock Elementary PAC

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL – Did you miss it? We did too. Due to the length of the teachers' strike we did not feel that there was sufficient time to prepare for the carnival before Halloween, so unfortunately it had to be cancelled. However, it's not gone forever, the popular carnival will be back next October bigger, better and scarier.

SPRING FUNDRAISER – The council is banging around ideas for this spring's fundraiser and we should be making an announcement soon. Please watch for this in the school newsletter.

PAC FUNDS – The majority of PAC funds are raised through hot lunch Fridays and a couple of big events a year such as the carnival or a raffle. Without the involvement of parents, students, staff and the community our fundraisers would not be the success that they are and we would not be able to support activities and many needful things for the school. Here are just a few of the items funded by the PAC; a replenish and upgrade to the emergency kits, rolls of art paper, bus transportation for field trips and a \$100.00 allotment per classroom for additional supplies. For this, we thank each and every one of you for your continued support.

Please check the school newsletter for the date and time of the next PAC meeting. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Sincerely, Rhonda Knowles, PAC Secretary

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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 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.

Whonnock Wee Ones Play Group

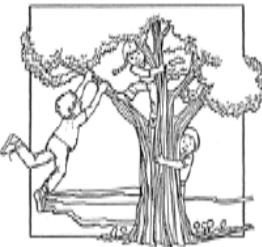
For newborns to preschoolers. Open playtime, crafts, songs, circle time and lots of fun. For more information call Julie at 604-466-2197.

Drop in, 9:00 – 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 3–5 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.



Little Green Apple Preschool Legacy Reunion

OPEN HOUSE - Legacy Reunion (1984 - 2006)

Saturday May 27/06 -11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Come and join us for a day of reminiscences, fun and celebration.

We would appreciate contributions of any sort, history, stories, food, pictures etc.

Please call Debby Hurst at 604-463-9770 or Jean Ruttan at 604-462-7794. Please RSVP if you wish to attend. We also have a number of LEGACY COOKBOOKS for sale, \$10.00 each.



Ridge Canoe and Kayak Club News

RCKC is very excited about our upcoming spring and summer session. We offer introductory kayak and canoe programs for adults and children, school programs, summer kayak/canoe day camps, competitive paddling programs, and drop-in boat rentals.

Starting May 15th RCKC will be offering once again our very popular Community Youth Racing Program for elementary school children ages 10 to 13 who want to learn how to kayak and canoe in a fun atmosphere. There will be a fun regatta held on June 24th for all the kids to show off their skills. Please sign up for this program directly through the club.

Adults will not be left out as Adult Learn to Kayak will be offered on week day evenings and weekends beginning May 9th until mid August. Please sign up for this program through the Maple Ridge Leisure Centre at 604-467-7322.

For the first time ever, RCKC will be offering training for dragon boat racing this spring and summer.

For more information on any of these programs please call our clubhouse at 604-462-7202 or Virginia Kurian at 604-462-8596. Our open house/information session will be held on May 6th from 10am until 2 pm at our boathouse located at the back of the Whonnock Lake Centre.

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 604-462-1511 for more information.

Whonnock Youth Outreach

A component of Youth Outreach Initiative, Whonnock Youth Outreach will host activities with the area residents, volunteers, parents and the Community Association to develop social and recreational opportunities. For more information, contact Brian Patel at 604-467-7354. Mon: 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.



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.

Beavers

Beavers meet at Whonnock Lake Centre on Wednesdays from 7 – 8 P.M. For more information call Adrianna Knox at 604-462-7262.



Guides and Pathfinders

Pineridge District 2 Guides and Pathfinders meet at Whonnock Lake Centre, Tuesdays from 6–8 P.M to have fun! For more information call Heidi at 604-462-7193.

1st Terrascholar Scouts



We meet at Whonnock Lake Centre on Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. We run a unique program for youth who can scout during the day, such as those involved in Distance Education, Cyber School and Home Learning. Contacts: Maureen Cross 604-466-6092 or Peter Tam 604-467-1888. E-mail: Terrascholar@shaw.ca. Web site <http://www.cariboomoose.com/scout_files/scoutmain.htm>



Music Lessons

Piano & keyboard lessons for children and beginner adults – contact Eleanor Tracey at 604-462-0610 for lesson fees and schedule information.

Old Age Pensioners – Branch 103

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.

Guys & Gals Volleyball

A social drop-in volleyball evening for adults. Best of all, it's free!! Commencing September 28, 2005. Location: Whonnock Elementary Gym Wednesday, 7:45 - 9:00 P.M. Just drop in!

Whonnock Lake Centre -Special Events

VOLUNTEER DINNER - Sunday, March 5, 2006

EASTER EGG HUNT – Sunday, April 16, 2006 at 1:00 P.M. sharp.

RHODODENDRON SHOW & SALE – Sunday, April 30, 2006

WHONNOCK LAKE DAY – Sunday, September 24, 2006



Whonnock Rhododendron Garden

Our plants seem to have survived the continuous rain of January without apparent ill effects. The somber picture the garden presented on January 30 was relieved by the modest display of pink flowers of our earliest rhododendron, Olive. Soon we shall see Snow Sprite followed by Snow Lady, both with clear white flowers as you would expect.

We are looking forward to seeing how the plants in the new part of the garden are developing now that they have had more than a year to acclimatize. In the older area of larger plants, there are swelling flower buds which promise to give a better than usual display. This may be due in part to the irrigation system we installed last summer, but also influential would be the thinning of the lower branches of the larger trees which was achieved recently.

On Sunday, March 12th at 2:00 o'clock, the Fraser Valley Rhododendron Society (FVRS) are having a "Garden Visit" and a good number of Society members are expected to attend. If you would like to meet some rhodo enthusiasts and learn more about the garden, please come along.

The FVRS meets on the fourth Monday of the month, 7:30 P.M. at St. Andrews Heritage Church, 22279 – 116th Avenue (off Haney Bypass), Maple Ridge.

Karate and Self Awareness Classes

All ages are training from 4 year olds to seniors, so come out and bring your family to train together in Shotokan Karate.

Monday's 5:30 – 6:30 P.M. All Members

Wednesday's 5:00 – 6:00 P.M. All Members

For registration and info call 604-936-0434 and talk with Sen- sei Andrew Johnson, Chief Instructor of Westcoast Shotokan Karate. Or go to <shotokanjohnson@yahoo.ca>

Whonnock Weavers & Spinners

The Whonnock Weavers & Spinners continue to meet in the pre-school room of the Whonnock Lake Centre on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 P.M.

We always welcome new members. As well as weaving, our members spin, knit, felt, needle felt and make baskets, so we are really a varied group. If you are interested in the fibre arts and wish to join us, simply come to a meeting, or phone Marie at 604-462-9059.

Whonnock Cemetery 100 years old

The Maple Ridge Community Heritage Commission installed a plaque at the Whonnock Cemetery commemorating the centennial of the cemetery started in 1905 by our Norwegian settlers. Look forward to the dedication in May, when the weather is so much better. See you there! Have a preview of the plaque on our Web site www.whonnock.ca.

Thornhill — Not a Hill

Grant Hill, not Thornhill, is the name of the mountain between Albion, Websters Corners, and Whonnock. Grant Hill is so known since establishment of Fort Langley and its name should not be obscured by the name Thornhill. Thornhill is the name adopted by a community on the southern slope of Grant Hill. It is not a geographical feature in the records of Natural Resources Canada, nor does it appear on the geographical maps of the District.

The name Thornhill dates back to the 1870s when James Thorne or Thorn had a crown grant of 160 acres in Albion, west of 240th Street. His land straddled Kanaka Creek and ran up the western slope of Grant Hill. James Thorne moved on, but the local settlers kept referring to the high land to the east of Albion as Thornhill.

After the Second World War people living on the southern slope of Grant Hill between Albion and Whonnock identified their neighbourhood as Thornhill and gave the name Thornhill to a school, a community centre, and a community association. Arguments pro and contra development let people forget that the community of Thornhill is on Grant Hill and that Thornhill is not a hill at all, just as Maple Ridge is not a ridge.

Real estate agents understood that very well. They have defined a new Thornhill that stretches beyond the slope of Grant Hill into Whonnock. The Thornhill of the developers is bordered in the west by 248th Street (!!), in the north by Kanaka Creek, and in the east by 272nd Street, affecting properties in Whonnock west of 272nd Street, including the historic core of Whonnock. So, if you are selling or buying Whonnock properties today, on Grant Hill or anywhere west of 272nd Street, don't be surprised when your real estate agent tells you that your place is in Thornhill, and not, as you thought, in Whonnock.

Ruskin-Whonnock Legion Branch

A small square glass ashtray with the words "Ruskin-Whonnock, Branch # 264, Royal Canadian Legion" in the collection of the Maple Ridge Museum caught the attention of Jordana Feist, museum curator. Jordana, a former Whonnock resident, found out that the branch came into being in September of 1963 at the Ruskin Hall, where Bill Jones, president, was presented the charter for the new branch. Aside from a newspaper article, no records have survived to tell us about the history of the branch. If you know anything about this branch please tell Jordana at 604-463-5311 or Fred at 604-462-8942 (e-mail: braches@whonnock.bc.ca).

The Whonnock Foundation

THE WHONNOCK FOUNDATION IS YOUR ORGANIZATION

The Whonnock Foundation was established in September 1994 to assist, encourage, and promote the wellbeing of the residents of the area between 256th Street and the Stave Lake and Stave River basin.

A six-member board is responsible for the overall policies and practices of the Foundation. Directors and members of the Foundation are volunteers.

The Whonnock Foundation has made distributions to the Ridge Canoe and Kayak Club to support health and fitness. A very generous bequest from Isabel and Brian Byrnes allowed The Whonnock Foundation to initiate the Byrnes Bursary, a bursary program directed at post-secondary (university, college, or technical school) students from Whonnock or Ruskin. Other initiatives are under consideration.

The Foundation is registered as a charitable organization with Canadian Customs and Revenue Canada.

HOW TO DONATE

Any one can give, at any time and in any amount. Any prospective contributor, or anyone interested in providing a fund for educational, cultural, recreational or other charitable purposes for the residents of Whonnock is encouraged to contact a board member for information or to discuss opportunities for charitable giving through the Foundation.

Gifts may be made in the form of cash, or pledges over a number of years, stocks, bonds, property, bequests, life insurance, memorial grants, transfer of an existing trust fund, or the establishment of an endowment fund by a charity or charitable organization. If you are in a Capital Gains situation or are Estate Planning, please consider The Whonnock Foundation.

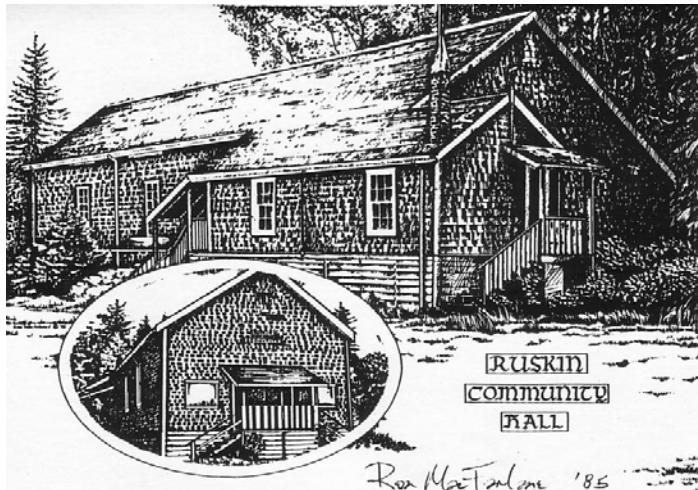
CHARITABLE TAX RECEIPTS ARE ISSUED FOR ALL GIFTS

When you donate to a registered charity, be sure to get an official receipt for income tax purposes. (Only registered charities such as The Whonnock Foundation can issue these receipts.) Attach the original receipt to your income tax return and complete the section of the return that refers to charitable donations.

CONTACTS:

Allan Springman	604 462 8114
Anne Kober	604 462 7740
Jan de Zeeuw	604 462 7713
Fred Braches	604 462 8942

E-mail: foundation@whonnock.ca



Ruskin Community Hall Information

The Ruskin Hall is located just on the corner (literally) of 96th Avenue and 284th Street. It is available for rent as well as being home to various local groups for their meetings, workshops, markets, etc. The Ruskin Community Hall Association meets here at the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 P.M., Please come out if you're interested. For more information call Louise at 462-9091.

The Hall is available for anniversaries, weddings, family reunions, meetings, etc., for a basic weekend rate of \$250. The Hall seats 84 for a banquet or 114 for a theatre setting. The kitchen is available for \$50.00. The kitchen has two stoves, a fridge, microwave and a 100-cup coffee urn. Plates and cutlery are available for an additional \$75.00. All rentals require a damage deposit and a janitor fee. The Hall is also leased out on an hourly basis. Call bookings agent, Shannon at 604 462-7642 for more information.

UPCOMING SPRING EVENTS

PUB NIGHT at the Shake and Shingle - tentatively late March

FLEA MARKET/BOOK SALE - Saturday, April 1 - table rental \$15

TALENT SHOWCASE - tentatively late April

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.

