

A DREAM COME TRUE

The story of Whonnock Lake Centre



Phil Johnson, Ken Smith, Chris Mellalieu and Allan Springman, have reason to celebrate. As the building committee that oversaw the construction of Whonnock Lake Centre they toasted the hall's opening on Saturday, 16 July 1988. (News Photo by Craig Hodge)

by Fred Braches

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Occasional papers of the Whonnock Community Association to promote the research and understanding of the past of our community.

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Also available: *Records of the Whonnock Community Association's Historical Project, 1985.*

Introduction



Front of Whonnock Lake Centre as pictured by Jo-Ann Bakker, manager-caretaker of Whonnock Lake Centre, and her husband Eit.

THE STORY OF WHONNOCK LAKE CENTRE STARTED IN 1977 when a last attempt to save the old Whonnock Memorial Hall failed and Maple Ridge Council passed a motion to start talks with the residents of Whonnock about the building of a new hall on municipal lands. It took until 1987 to start construction of the Centre at Whonnock Lake.

It seemed unlikely that sufficient funds could be raised for a new hall and Whonnock turned its attention to the establishment of a volunteer organization that could stand up its common the interests and that could arrange activities for its residents. The Whonnock Community Association quickly gained in strength and resolve and when it became evident that an own hall would still be essential for Whonnock, leaders came forward who found support on all levels of government to make Whonnock Lake Centre a reality.

I had the pleasure to interview some of those who made the building of Whonnock Lake Centre possible: Allan Springman, Phil Johnson, and Chris Mel-lalieu of the building committee, Bud Popadiuk, who did the actual building, and Mike Murray of Parks and Leisure Services. They provided me with a background for the evaluation and interpretation of the surviving records. I also interviewed Jan de Zeeuw and Nick Russell who tried hard to reconstruct from memory the history of the earlier Whonnock Memorial Hall Association and its successor the Whonnock Society. Fortunately records of the period from 1975 to 1981 also turned up to complement de Zeeuw's and Russel's stories. These records had been faithfully held in trust by Les Trask, former president of the Whonnock Society and had miraculously survived a fire that destroyed his house.

I thank all mentioned or not mentioned here who helped to put this booklet together. Of course 64 pages are not enough to tell all there is to know about how Whonnock Lake Centre came about, but it may show what a great work was by done by a small number of us who never tired to pursue the impossible dream.

If you want to know more, talk to any of the people who were part of the Whonnock Community Association in those wonderful years.

Fred Braches

About the Old Hall



Left: *The Ladies Hall, in 1920 renamed Whonnock Memorial Hall, in its first years.*

According to the minutes of meetings of the Ladies Club held in February 1912, Albert G. Miller of Ruskin, father of the author Charles Miller, drew up the plan of the Hall and laid out the ground for its foundation.

Mrs. West's brother Olaus Lee, an experienced carpenter, was chosen to erect the Hall under supervision of Mr. Miller.

THE BUILDING ORIGINALLY KNOWN AS THE LADIES HALL came to Whonnock thanks to the initiative of a group of Whonnock women. "The Ladies' Club of Whonnock," as it was officially known, was formed in 1911. The society was simply known as the Ladies Club and no one bothered about the apostrophe. The site for the hall was partly purchased from and partly donated by Mrs. West (née Martha Marie Lee). The Ladies Hall started to be used without fanfare some time in the summer of 1912.

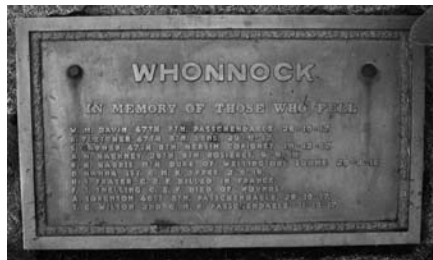
During the first seven years of its existence, the Ladies Club carried the load of a mortgage. After the First World War, at meetings of the people of Whonnock in December 1919 and January 1920, it was decided that the Ladies Hall would be "acquired and turned into a Memorial Hall" and that funds that were made available in the memory of the soldiers of "Whonnock district" who fell in the 1914–1918 war would be "handed over to the Ladies Club" to pay off the mortgage and for a memorial: a brass tablet with the names of these soldiers. The deed of the hall was left in the hands of the Ladies Club and it was agreed that committees to manage the Memorial Hall would be elected annually by the inhabitants of Whonnock.

In 1944 the Ladies Club wound up and handed the deed of the property over to the Whonnock Women's Institute with the stipulation "to deliver this title and transfer of same any time a demand is made by a majority of the members of the Community to any Person or Persons nominated by the Community." Due to the lack of interest of the community no management committees came forward, leaving the running of the Hall to the Women's Institute most of the time. In January 1953, at a meeting of Whonnock residents, it was decided that the Whonnock Women's Institute would continue to hold the title and take over the responsibility of managing the hall "as they see fit." The Women's Institute formed separate committees that took care of the hall with the help "from any public-spirited citizen they can get hold of;" and there were few of those.

Opposite top: *Detail of an aerial photograph of a part of Whonnock taken in May 1948 during the Fraser Flood. A circle is drawn around the Whonnock Memorial Hall on River Road.*

Opposite below: *Partial drawing supplied by the Ministry of Transportation and Highways to the Whonnock Community Association in 1988 showing the Whonnock Memorial Hall. The building did not exist any more in 1988 and the photocopy of this drawing on file shows pencil strokes through the outline of the hall. The drawing shows tentative right-of-way requirements for the future widening of Lougheed Highway. Ref. Plan 3387 was purchased from Mrs. West and Ref. Plan 5328 was donated by her to the Ladies Club.*

Snapshot of the Whonnock Memorial Hall in the 1950s showing its age. The concrete steps leading down from River Road to the front door are not visible. Above the door is the brass plaque shown below.



A brass plaque with the names of Whonnock soldiers who fell in the war of 1914-1918 was attached in 1921 above the main entrance of the Whonnock Memorial Hall. After the old hall was torn down it returned to the site for a short time where it was attached to a concrete base. It is now displayed near the entrance to Whonnock Lake Centre.

The existence of the Whonnock Memorial Hall, which had little income even in its best days, depended on public enjoyment and volunteer work. The old building fell more and more in disrepair. By 1965 even the Women's Institute had moved its meetings to the new Thornhill Hall. In 1968 a proposition from the Maple Ridge Parks Board to purchase land and build a hall under a lease-back agreement was rejected in favour of retaining the land, demolishing the old hall, and erecting a new hall from materials saved from the old building. Nothing came of that.

In 1972 an appeal was made to the residents of Whonnock for their generosity, and from the money collected the roof was repaired. At a public meeting held in the spring of 1974, thirty of forty Whonnock residents present voted in favour of transferring the deed from the Women's Institute to the Whonnock Old Age Pensioners Organization, allowing a newly elected Hall Committee to apply for funding and make repairs. The decision was ignored by the Women's Institute. They, as holders of the deed, had legal rights to exclude anyone from the property and that they did effectively. At the same time the Municipality restricted entrance to the building unless approved by the Building Inspector.

The following year, 1975, a Hall Committee formed by local citizens made another unsuccessful attempt to establish a working relationship with the Whonnock Women's Institute. To be more accountable to the people of Whonnock and "so it may legally hold the deed," the Hall Committee was converted later that year into a registered society called the Whonnock Memorial Hall Society. Although a survey of the citizens of Whonnock showed a majority in favour of reviving the hall the Women's Institute found the Whonnock Memorial Hall society unacceptable to act as their agent in renovating the hall. All efforts by the municipality to bring the parties together failed. Over a period of another year the bitter dispute about the ownership of the hall and its future raged in public. It came to a surprising end when in June of 1976, the lawyer of the Whonnock Women's Institute informed Council that she had been instructed to turn the deed and the hall over to the municipality requesting that the property be held in trust for the community of Whonnock to be used as a memorial park. The deed was transferred to the municipality in January of 1977.

Opposite page: Letter of appeal to the residents of Whonnock by members of the Women's Institute Hall Committee to the residents of Whonnock, 1972

To The Residents Of Whonnock

The Whonnock Memorial Hall was built by the pioneers of Whonnock with volunteer labor, on donated land.

The ownership of this land and building is vested in each and every citizen in Whonnock.

For lack of community interest, the Whonnock Women's Institute has been carrying the load of **your hall**.

Due to municipal regulations, we now face major repairs, which include a new roof, fire doors, etc.

The current inspection reports of the Fire Marshall and Building Inspector affirm the soundness of the structure, but stress the need for immediate repairs.

We appeal to you for a generous donation of cash, labour or materials to renovate **your** Whonnock Memorial Hall and to keep the land free of incumbrances for your children and their children.

Donations and inquiries may be made to any member of your Hall Committee.

Chairman —

Mrs. G. Spinks, 11287 Graham St., R.R. 1, Whonnock Phone 462-9281

Secretary-Treasurer —

Mrs. T. Leaf, 10045 - 272 St., R.R. 1, Whonnock Phone 462-9437

Directors —

Mr. Brian Byrnes, 26903 River Rd., Whonnock Phone 462-7514

Mrs. Brian Byrnes, 26903 River Rd., Whonnock Phone 462-7514

Mr. Walter George, 26912 River Rd., Whonnock Phone 462-7030

Mr. James Turnbull, 9984 - 276 St., R.R. 1, Whonnock Phone 462-7489

Mrs. James Turnbull, 9984 - 276 St., R.R. 1, Whonnock Phone 462-7489

Open Letter

Re: Whonnock Memorial Hall

1. **Present location.** The present site is too steep for economic construction or renovation. The present site is not big enough for adequate parking and will become increasingly unsatisfactory with the construction of a widened highway; the noise and vibration of increasing rail and road traffic are not conducive to the community use envisaged; as in Haney, the centre of population is no longer near the river, and the dangerous hill, which everyone will have to use in winter, is another disadvantage in icy weather.

2. **The building.** The present building, although full of sentimental attachments for many residents is, in fact, deteriorated beyond simple remedies. Sanitary facilities are negligible and fire hazards very high. Planning in relation to present and future access and use is very poor. With great regret, one must conclude that the present hall has served its term and, as a working community centre, is overdue for replacement.

3. **The need for a community building in Whonnock,** as in Albion and Ruskin, is established. Many functions for the realization of the full potential of such a community facility require that the building be adjacent to a community park.

Properly placed, it can then be the nucleus for a community group including recreational buildings of other types. Good parking and a safe, level site with access from a community feeder road are desirable. Such locations, already in public ownership, exist at Whonnock Lake and Selvey Parks. The taxpayers of Whonnock have every right to ask council that such a site be used for a new hall.

4. **Possible action.** The present site should be used as capital and sold either to the municipality or provincial government for road widening, if possible. A new site should be negotiated on the lines in (3) above, government financial assistance sought under LIP or whatever is available, and a simple new building erected which can be added to as need arises. I have considered moving part of the old building, but without considerable study and pricing, cannot at this time recommend it. Moreover, a cement block building would be much safer.

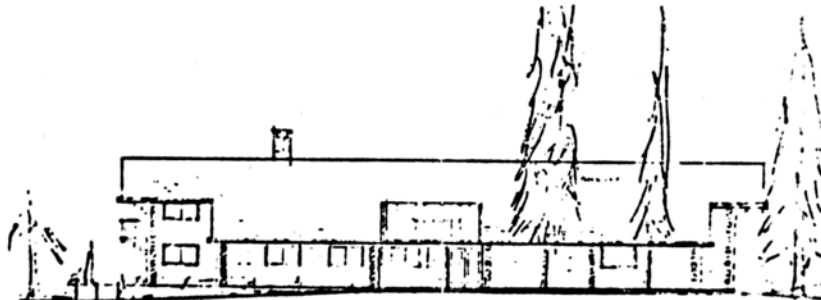
A committee should be struck to make a thorough investigation of the foregoing and come up with some real facts and figures as to cost and timing.

Respectfully submitted,

-- Frank Sleight,
MRAIC, FRIBA, Architect.

Letterhead of the Whonnock Memorial Hall Society

Whonnock Memorial Hall Society



© 1976 by Whonnock Memorial Hall Society

The Lodge at the Lake

AROUND THE TIME FRANK SLEIGH WAS ELECTED vice-president of the Whonnock Memorial Hall Society in June of 1976, he published an open letter in *The Outpost*, Ruskin's own newspaper, with his views on a community building in Whonnock. As an engineer, he understood that the Whonnock Memorial Hall was overdue for replacement. Because the site between River Road and Loughheed Highway was too small to provide adequate parking and too steep for economic construction, Sleigh favoured selling the site and erecting a simple new building preferably at Selvey Park or at Whonnock Lake.

Memorial Hall Society President Russell hastened to explain that Sleigh's ideas about the future of the hall were strictly his own. As Sleigh observed the old hall was "full of sentimental attachments for many residents," and the conservationists among the members of the Society did not give up that easily. In April 1977, after council accepted a staff report recommending the old hall be demolished, Russell appeared before Council and asked for and got a postponement until after the Society's annual meeting in May. Council also agreed to hand over to the Society all materials they had used to decide to tear down the building. Council would not be opposed to concrete proposals from the Society beyond "we want to renovate the hall."

The President's report to the annual general meeting of the Whonnock Memorial Society of 11 May 1977 has survived. It reflects Russell's anger and frustration, calling the reports that formed the basis for Council's decision to destroy the building "ambiguous." But at the same time the report echoes Sleigh's concerns that an enormous amount of work would be involved to renovate the hall and that the location was poor. Russell also admitted that the fight for possession of the hall and the property would be a costly and lengthy one with an uncertain outcome. There were, in his view, three options: keep fighting, negotiate a deal for a new hall with Council, or "throw in the sponge."

That the fight for the old hall was not over became evident once more at a Council meeting held in Whonnock in June 1977. The Society's repeated demands to turn over the title to the hall were rejected by Council. The Society had some suggestions about renovating the old hall, but only a suggestion that a new hall be built elsewhere with municipal assistance caught Council's attention and led to the passing of the motion: "that the Municipal Council go on record as favouring a meeting with representatives from the residents of Whonnock to discuss the matter of the construction of a new Whonnock Community Hall on Municipality-owned property." A person attending the meeting is quoted by *The Gazette* as saying, "I've been sitting here out of the debate, and I can see there are bad feelings on both sides. There is a lot of nonsense here. The Society has suggested building of the hall in another area and that's sensible. The Mayor offered some land and that's sensible. It seems to me that we have two positive suggestions, so let's forget the nit-picking, work together and get on with the job."

Executive 1976 – 1977

President: Nick Russel
Vice President: Frank Sleigh
Secretary: Keith Fraser
Treasurer: Dorothy Wirth

Members at Large:

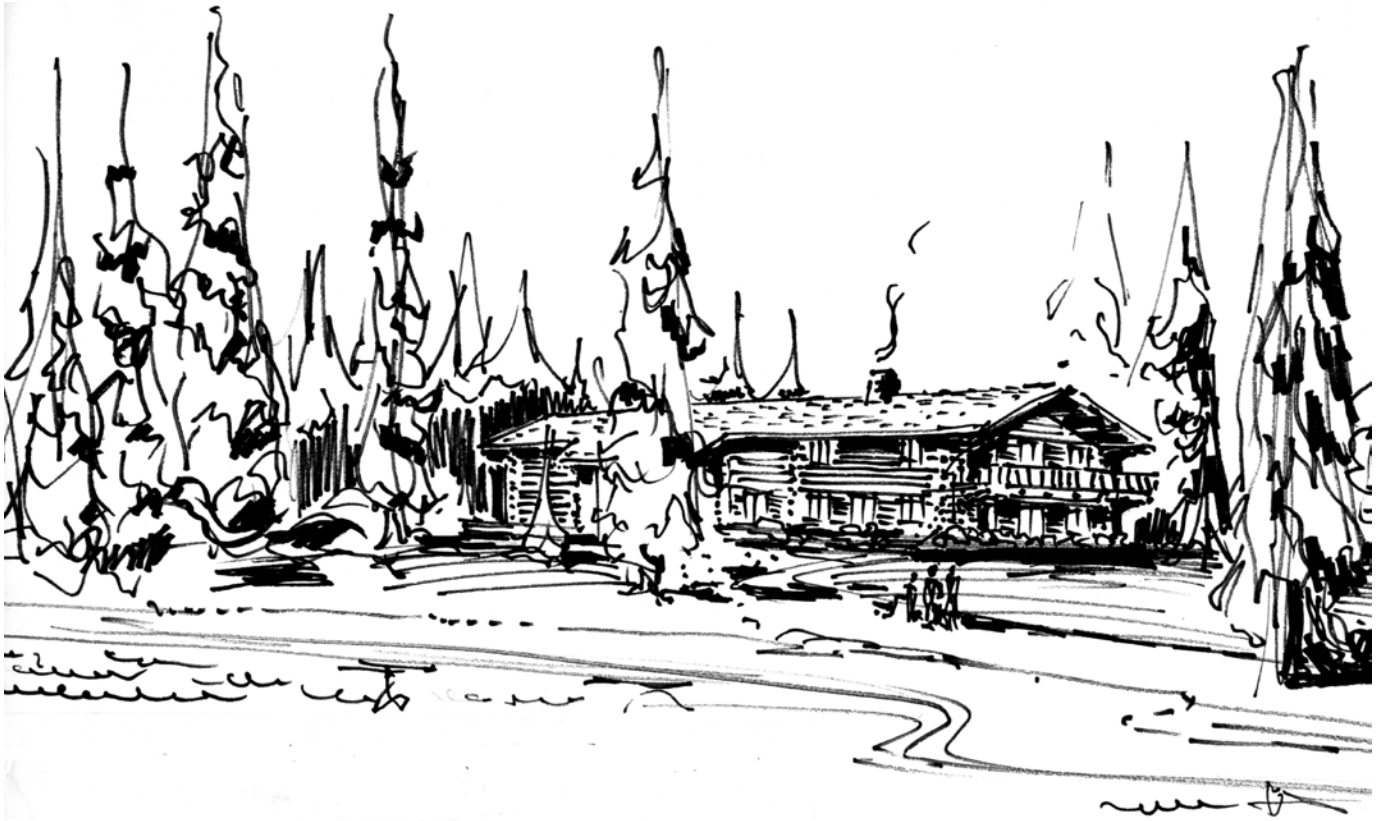
Lorraine Jones
Jan de Zeeuw
Les Wahl
Vicky Warner
Marg Houghton
Steve Woodruff

Executive 1978 – 1979

President: Frank Sleigh
Vice President: Nick Russell
Secretary: Bob Barry
Treasurer: Dorothy Wirth

Members at Large:

Lorraine Jones
Jan de Zeeuw
Keith Fraser
Ken Smith
Simon Foulds
Gail Barry
Marg Houghton



Above: Illustration of Frank Sleight's "Community Lodge" shown on the cover of a funding application to the Recreation Facilities Program dated January 1979.

...The project consists of a peeled log structure sympathetic to its natural setting in lake-side woodland. It is 101 ft. long and 55 ft. wide and has an area of 5,000 sq. ft. on the main floor and a second-floor custodian suite of 750 sq. ft. There is a centrally located hall 51 ft. by 31 ft. with a permanent stage that can be utilized for indoor or outdoor presentations, or as a meeting room. There is a lounge 23 ft. by 31 ft. which can be used as a tea-room, for preschool or for meetings. Kitchen, washrooms and office are provided and the main circulation space is arranged for the most flexible community use, consistent with the need for reducing sound-interference between activities and maintaining a simple log structure...

From "Proposal for a new community lodge in Whonnock Lake Park, funded by the B.C. Recreation Facilities Assistance Program: sponsored by the Municipality of Maple Ridge and Mr. George Musalem, M.L.A. (S.C.), Dewdney Riding, Province of B.C." dated January 1979

In July 1977 the Whonnock Memorial Hall Society conducted another mail-in survey asking residents to once again for their opinion. In the introduction to the form Nick Russell, president, concedes that "...to continue fighting would be to bang our heads against the wall." As with the survey a year earlier respondents almost unanimously stated that they wanted a hall. Most confirmed the suggestion that the hall would be at the geographical centre of the community; the Society thought about putting the building on the same land as the Whonnock Fire hall. The preferred uses were meetings, socials, sports, activities, craft sales, clinics, preschool and daycare.

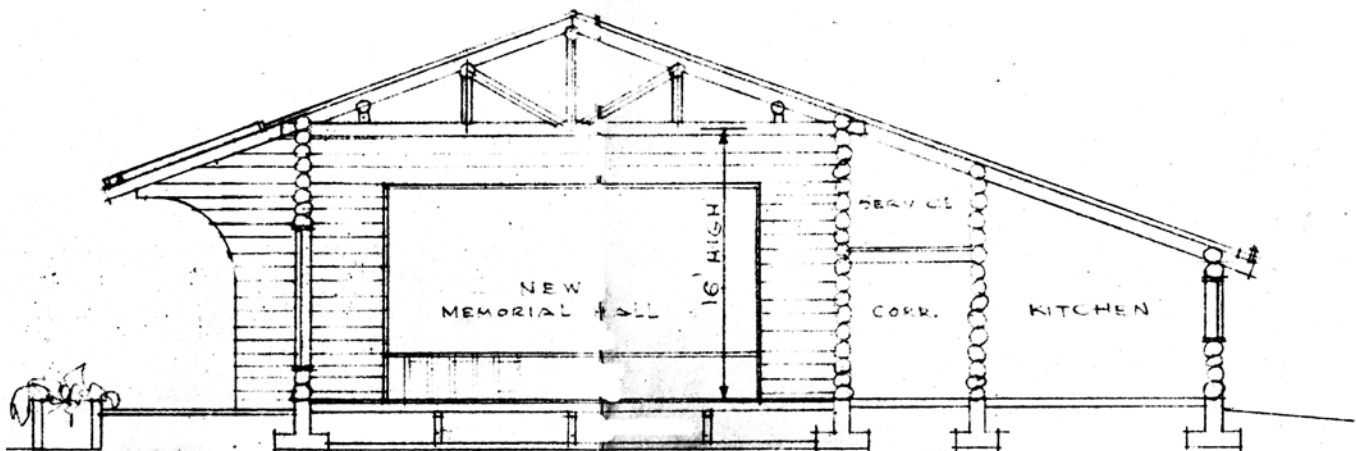
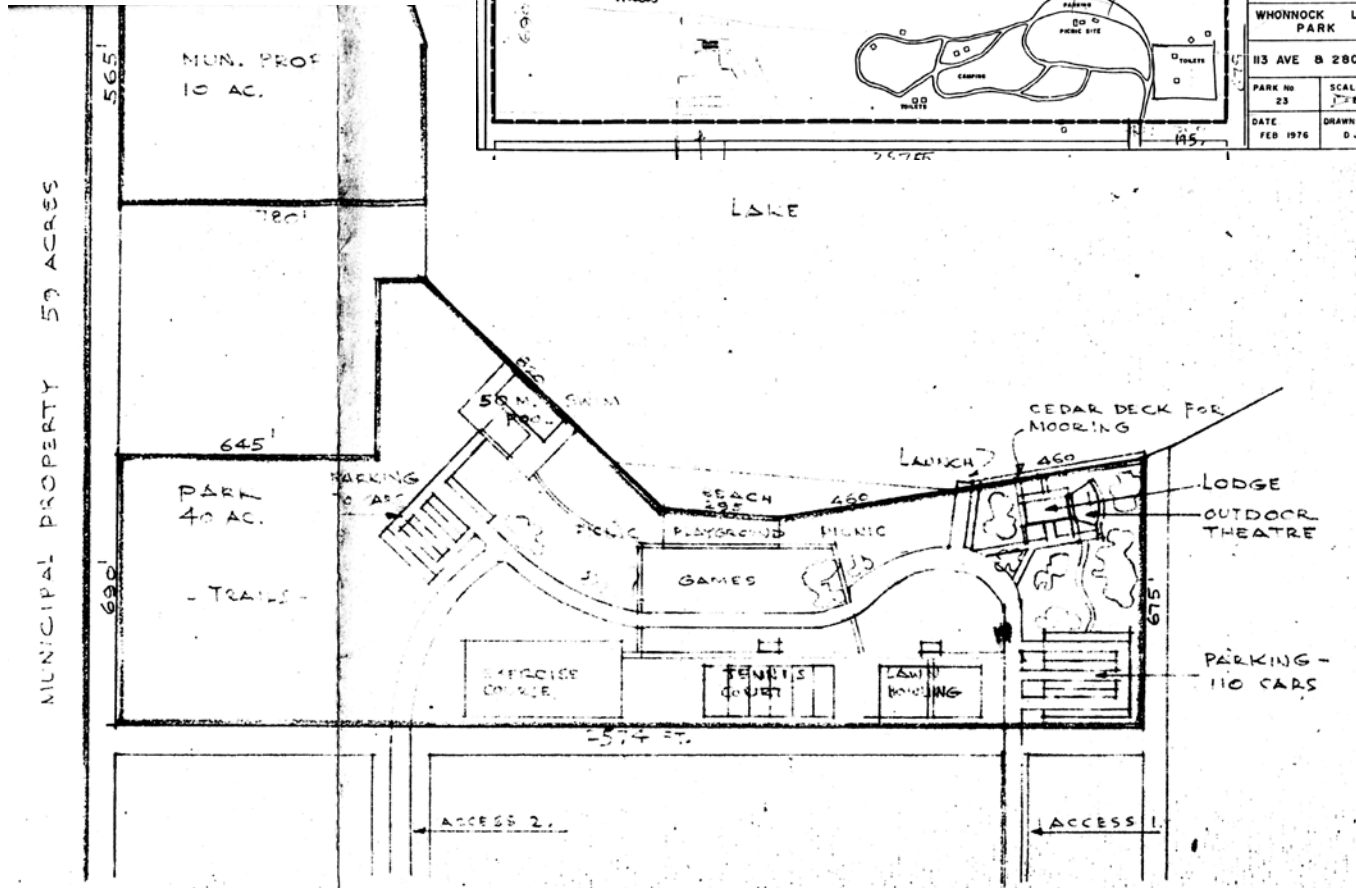
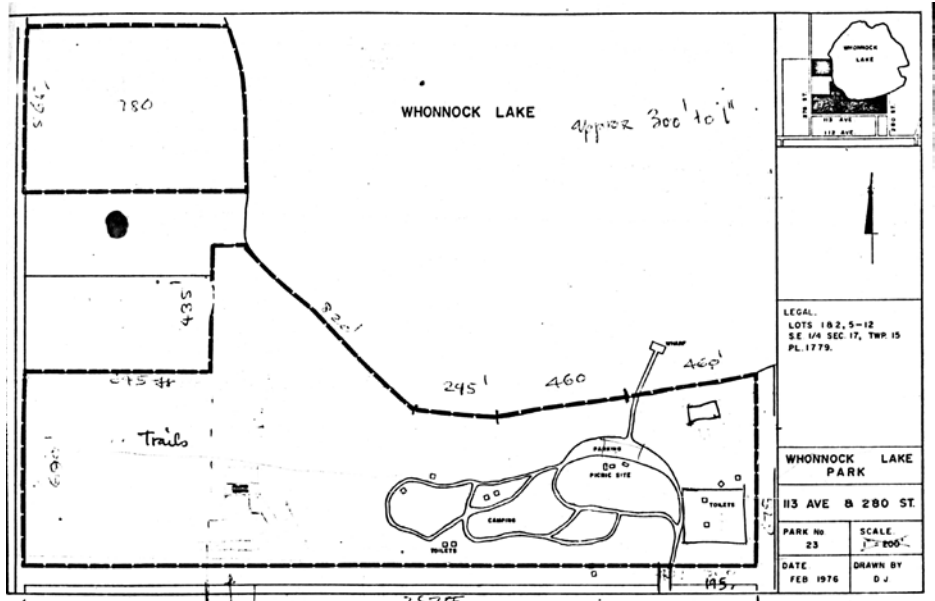
In the fall of 1977 tentative plans for the hall were shown to the public and the press before an all-candidates meeting for municipal elections. "The unveiling was a modest affair," *The Gazette* reported, "sketches of the hall proposal and suggested land use in the area were taped to a back wall of the Whonnock Elementary School gym...The plan calls for a log building with storage space, a kitchen, a 52ft. by 32ft. main hall, and a smaller meeting room or restaurant." Reactions to the plan by members of the municipality were cautiously favourable.

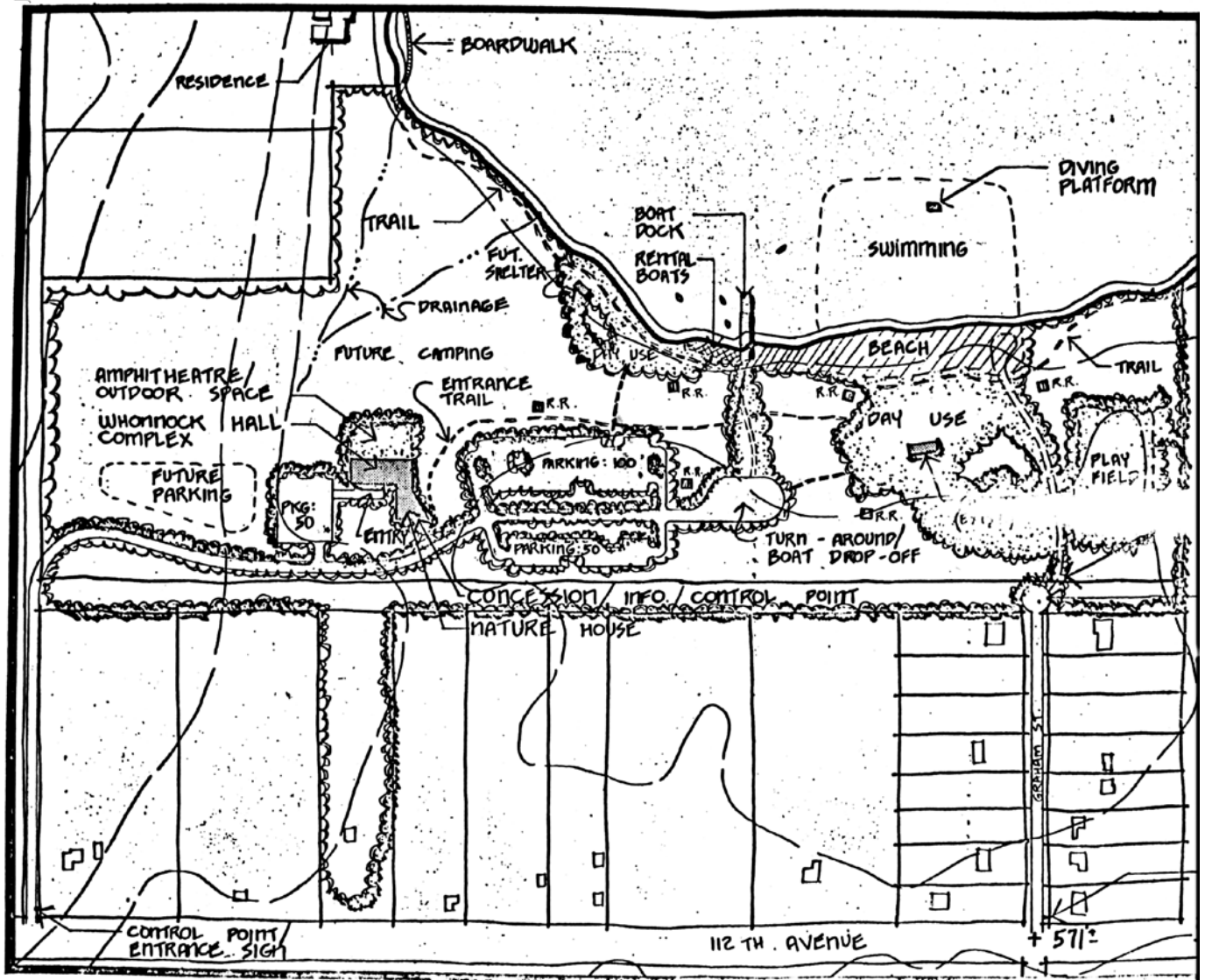
Nick Russell's president's report for 1978 starts with the words "Another year in which we learned patience. Little progress; no new hall and old one condemned." The opening of Whonnock Lake Centre would still be ten years ahead. But there was progress to report. A series of presentations of the plan to the municipality resulted in a vote by Council in February to "hereby approve Whonnock Lake Park as the site for the proposed new hall." Russell commented: "Inadvertently that means that the future of the whole park is our concern."

On the right is a municipal map dated February 1976. On the east (right) side of the map two rectangles are pencilled in for the hall site and a parking lot.

Sleigh used this information for his site design on the 1977 drawings (below), placing his "Community Lodge" at the eastern border of the park. Also note the "outside theatre;" the stage would be inside the hall.

Lower on the page a building detail from the 1977 drawings.





Frank Sleigh was elected president for 1978-1979.

Above: Map from "Whonnock Lake Park Development Study." The Gazette reported (16 August 1978) that at the unveiling of the conceptual plans "...the turn-out of residents was lower than the turn-out of consultants and municipal staff members. Nick Russell and Frank Sleigh of the Whonnock Memorial Society made up for the lack of numbers, however, with their comments on the plans.... The conceptual plan eliminated any road access from Graham Street to a new road off 112th Avenue leading to a parking lot and calls for a complex including the Whonnock Hall.... Russell, saying that he was impressed with the presentation...added he was concerned with time. Both he and Sleigh said park development would take many years and dollars and they would like to see work on the hall start soon.

That summer of 1978 a conceptual plan for the development of Whonnock Lake Park was undertaken by Ron Rule Landscape Architects and municipal staff. Recommendations by the public included leaving Whonnock Lake Park in its natural state, the creation of an access road to the park other than Graham Street, parking, and security. The Society wished to have the new hall constructed closer to the lake than shown in the plans.

The resulting "Whonnock Lake Park Development Study" envisioned more than the modest log building conceived by Frank Sleigh and recommended that:

The District of Maple Ridge continue discussions with the Whonnock Hall Society regarding the construction of the Whonnock Hall complex; it is suggested that the complex include facilities for a concession, caretaker's quarters, nature house with interpretive centre, and meeting rooms; in addition an amphitheatre and outdoor space would lend itself well to this facility, the location of which would be at the end of the entrance road. It is expected that an additional fifty parking spaces will be required to accommodate patrons to this facility.

In 1979 possible avenues for help for a new hall were developed, including government sources (Community Recreation Facility Fund, Canada Works, an New Horizons (via OAPO)); local organizations (Allouette River Unit and B.C. Corrections); local industry (Whonnock Lumber) and local volunteers. MLA George Mussallem took an interest: "...you can depend on my full co-operation and effort."

The minutes of the annual general meeting of 1979 show Frank Sleigh reporting that he had continued discussions of the proposed hall site and that Mayor Norm Jacobsen had guaranteed again that a site would be reserved in Whonnock Lake Park. An application for a \$200,000 grant under the BC Recreation and Facilities Fund was returned with a request for more information. A great disappointment was that changes in the regulations of the Fund now required that two-thirds of the total funds needed would have to come from sources other than the Fund.

Obtaining funding proved to be an insurmountable obstacle for many years.

Executive 1979 – 1980

President: Jan de Zeeuw
 Vice President: Les Wahl
 Secretary: Mrs. T. Duriaux
 Treasurer: Dorothy Wirth

Members at Large:

Lorraine Jones
 Sharon Russell
 Frank Sleigh
 Zoe Landale
 Phyllis Landale
 Marg Houghton

Fund-raising Committee

Jan de Zeeuw
 Lorraine Jones
 Marg Houghton
 Nick Russell

Technical Committee

Les Wahl
 Marg Houghton
 Frank Sleigh



JAN 11/84 FEEDING THE FIRE
 A young pyromaniac tosses a couple of twigs on a blaze of Christmas trees at Whonnock Lake on Sunday. Maple Ridge Volunteer fireman supervised the burning of 150 evergreens, the consuming of 100 cups of coffee and hot chocolate and an equal number of hot dogs.

1984 christmas tree burning at Whonnock Lake. This event, sponsored jointly by Fire Hall No. 2 and the Whonnock Community Association, started in 1983. Phil Johnson was the co-ordinator. It was one of many events contributing to the Hall Fund. Hot chocolate was served.

1980–1982

Executive 1980 – 1981

President:	Allan Springman
Vice President:	Les Trask
Secretary:	Carol Powell
Treasurer:	Carol Powell

Members at Large 1980:

Anthony Beale
Fred Duriaux
Margaret Findlay
Gary Miller
Gordon Schmidt
Ken Smith
Jan de Zeeuw

Members at Large 1981:

Tony Beale
Gary Miller
Diane DeGroot
Ray McCre
Nick Russell
Ken Smith
Gladys Hilland
Jean Ruttan
Caroline Sharpe
Don Fisk

“WATER FOR WHONNOCK!” CRIED THE FLYER. The Ministry of the Environment had drilled a test well on 272nd Avenue producing 100 gallons of water a minute, but, due to government regulations it would not be possible to use this well. Why couldn't the Municipality drill its own well right beside it? People running out of water could then fill up their containers in Whonnock. To discuss this “and other issues” the Whonnock Hall Memorial Society called a meeting on 28 May 1980 at Whonnock Elementary School. A second item mentioned in the pamphlet might not have drawn as much attention: “There will be a motion to change the name of the Society to Whonnock Society, and a discussion on the need of local representation on Council and School Board.” That motion passed unanimously and the new “Whonnock Society” boasted 57 members.

It was at that meeting that Allan Springman questioned Jan de Zeeuw, who chaired the meeting and, when challenged to become actively involved in the affairs of the community, he put his name forward and was elected president of the Whonnock Society, because, as he later said, “no one else wanted to do it.”

The purpose of the Whonnock Society would be “to deal expressly with the needs and wishes of concerned Whonnock individuals” and a list of priorities was drawn up including such items as the water well; specific road improvements; recreational services (which included the hall); maintenance of rural life style; vandalism; and the school parking lot. The executive and interested individuals would form committees to deal with each concern and the committees would make their recommendations about actions to be taken. The committee formed at the meeting was the Water Well Committee and it left with a number of recommendations from the members.

The executive preferred to present the society to Council and the District as a “new membership” formed under the name “Whonnock Society,” consisting of a “group of ratepayers, who have chosen to get together, on occasion, to discuss various concerns pertaining to their needs and wishes for the future of Whonnock.” The executive looked forward “to developing a productive and workable relationship with Council.” Council welcomed “the formation of such a group of ratepayers.”

Nowhere was the co-operation with the District closer than with the “Parks, Facilities and Program Office” represented by Mike Murray, at that time Recreation Superintendent. A note on file reads “reorganization with the assistance of Mike Murray, Alison Bray, and Barry Reid.” Organization and orientation would have been better words than “reorganization.” Under the leadership of Mike Murray this branch of the District of Maple Ridge became a strong supporter of the Whonnock Community Association in its early days, allowing fulfilment of the dream of a Whonnock Community Centre.

Ken Smith, who chaired the Recreation Committee, took care of the Whonnock Recreational Survey designed by the Whonnock Community Association with co-operation of Maple Ridge Parks and Recreation staff. In January 1981 a questionnaire was distributed by students of the Whonnock Elementary School

1981

and Scouts “to find out the present cultural and/or recreational activities and interests of the residents of the Whonnock area and the need for additional programs and/or facilities.” At an executive meeting in April 1981 Ken Smith reported that Allison Bray had compiled what he called an excellent rough draft of the report of the first part of the survey. She was working on a summary.

Ken Smith also thanked Allison for all her work on the application for funding for a student for the “provision of a variety of recreational activities to the residents of Ruskin and Whonnock” from the Federal Government. Funding was granted and in 1981 and again in 1982 the Association would participate in the “Summer in the Park” program.

An Easter Egg Hunt, the first of many organized by the Association, was a well-attended event in the spring of 1981. Allison brought the eggs and guidelines for the hunt.

Other successes were scored. Council approved the well and also allotted money for the upgrading of the road on the 100th Avenue hill. Other active committees were the Rural Lifestyle Committee—concerned about Mussallem’s 1-acre subdivisions at McNutt Street, north of Dewney Trunk Road—and the Public Relations Committee. Political involvement was discussed and it was decided that the society best remain non-partisan but that a discussion between the executives of the various societies in east Maple Ridge on “common areas of dissension” could be productive. Also in the spring of 1981, a Social Committee was struck, that, headed by a member of the executive, could arrange such events as picnics, a farmer’s market, craft fairs, flea markets, etc.

Since the name “Whonnock Society” was not acceptable for the Registrar of Companies in Victoria, it was unanimously decided at a meeting on 21 May 1981, “that the name of our Society be changed to the ‘Whonnock Community Association.’”

There seemed to be silence in the meetings regarding a hall, but the Whonnock Recreational Survey summary was part of the efforts to bring a hall to Whonnock. As Ken Smith indicated to the members in January 1982, the survey showed “strong evidence that a community centre would be a definite asset to the community and for a wide variety of activities.” The summary was presented by Allan Springman and Ken Smith to the Parks and Recreation Commission and shortly after that to Maple Ridge Council emphasizing Whonnock’s need for a centre. Reminding Council of their commitment to a site in Whonnock Lake Park Smith and Springman said, “We look forward to continued good relationships with Council and Municipal staff. We have been encouraged both by your co-operation and a return to a feeling of community in Whonnock.”

At the Annual General Meeting in May of 1982 it was decided “to have an annual Whonnock Days event early in September at the lake in the form of a fall fair or farmers market. Caroline Sharpe, Fary Miller, Tony Beale, Allan Springman, and Lynda Wedlock were the first volunteer organizers.

Aside from the first “Whonnock Days” event, a successful craft fair took place in November. The possibility of a New-Years tree burning bonfire event were discussed and the event took place on 8 January 1983, organized by Phil Johnson.

Executive 1982 - 1983

President:	Les Trask
Vice President:	Tony Beale
Secretary:	Jean Ruttan
Treasurer:	Carol Powell
Past President:	Allan Springman
Archivist:	Nick Russell
Recreation:	Caroline Sharpe
Rural Lifestyle:	Vivian Town
Memberships:	Carol Powell Gina Webb
Members at Large:	Francis Janes, Roy McCre Lynda Wedlock Peter Schwarz Gary Miller Ken Smith

Jan de Zeeuw and Fred Duriaux wished to take leave as Members at Large. Duriaux continued as liaison with Parks and Recreation.

1982

1982 First Whonnock Lake Day



Snapshots by Neva Springman of this first Whonnock Lake Day. It was still a simple affair, but it was a success. From this simple beginning came much more entertainment in the following years and also the "Great Zucchini Contest" and the "Whonnauction."



1983



In October 1983 the Whonnock Community Association "borrowed" the spawning salmon logo from the Salmonid Enhancement Program for its letterhead. When it became clear that SEP did not approve of our use of their logo it was replaced at the 10th anniversary of Whonnock Lake Centre with our own Whonnock logo designed by Brenda Guild Gillespie.



1983-1984 Elections

President:	Les Trask
Vice President:	Ken Hornblower
Secretary:	Jean Ruttan
Treasurer:	Hans van Dooyeweerd
Members at Large:	Phil Johnson Susan Matthews Rita Hornblower Margo Smith Tony Beale Gary Miller Allan Springman

AT A MEETING IN JANUARY 1983 THE HALL COMMITTEE informed the members that Council had approved the site of the new hall in Whonnock Lake Park, "in the southwest corner of the day-camp area." The green light was given.

At that meeting members were also informed by Allan Springman that the new hall would be built under the auspices of the Whonnock Community Association and that, upon completion, the building would be transferred to the Municipality and leased back to the Association for the nominal fee of \$1.00 per year. The membership agreed with the proposal.

It was now up to the Whonnock Community Association to produce the funds to make the erection of the hall a reality. To show members what would be needed to build a hall Allan Springman presented a proposed site plan for a 8,500 sq. ft. building that would cost approximately half a million dollars. It would not be realistic to expect that all that money would come from the about four thousand residents of Whonnock, but they were invited to come up with suggestions how to go about getting money. The preliminary hall drawings presented by Springman at the meeting were not the drawings of Frank Sleigh's lodge but were made by Aldine Moore, an employee of R. Hoffart Architects, who would later be contracted as the architects of the project.

On recommendation of the Hall Committee, the Whonnock Community Association agreed to open a separate building fund for the construction and furnishing of the hall; an account where funds raised specifically for the completion of the facility would be held, separate from the Association's general revenue, and from where the Building Committee would make their payments.

The year 1983 brought a new letterhead and its attractive and professional appearance enhanced the identity of the Association for more than a decade. That year the Association also received a permanent address: the postbox they still use. How to reach the residents became a concern. Suggestions: community billboards at the post office and at Pedersen's store at 272nd, hand delivery of notices, and "a Whonnock page or column in the *Gazette*." For many years the Springmans would produce such a column in our local newspapers, reaching the residents and informing everyone else that there was a place called Whonnock.

Recreation rumbled on. For the second time an Easter Egg Hunt took place. Again Whonnock Lake Day and a craft fair in November were a success.

But the greatest feat of the year was Phil Johnson's Thunderbird car raffle. Westcoast Motors was willing to wait for payment until after the draw. The car was hauled on a trailer from shopping centre to shopping centre: Willowbrook, Seven Oaks, Clearbrook, Coquitlam Centre and finally Valley Fair. A small group of dedicated volunteers followed the car and sold the tickets. Phil is still impressed about the patience and dedication of these people. The hall fund earned \$11,000 and the dance after the draw contributed another \$333. A great start, but much more was needed.

1983 Car Raffle

Whonnock Notes - 16 November 1983

The car raffle is in the stretch drive. Until November 19 the car will be in the Valley Fair Mall. Ticket sales have reached 4,000 and the current goal is 6,000 before the 19th of November. Prospective purchasers are urged to contact Whonnock Community Association members or phone 462-8114 to get their T-Bird tickets.

Whonnock Lumber and H&R Redi-Mix are to be congratulated for their support of the Community Centre. Both firms have purchased tickets for their employees. Other businesses are urged to follow their example—providing their employees with a chance to win a new deluxe Thunderbird and providing their community with a boost. Call Phil Johnson at 462-9068 if this idea appeals to you. Gerry St. Germain will be drawing the winning ticket for the car raffle at the November 19th dance at Thornhill Hall...

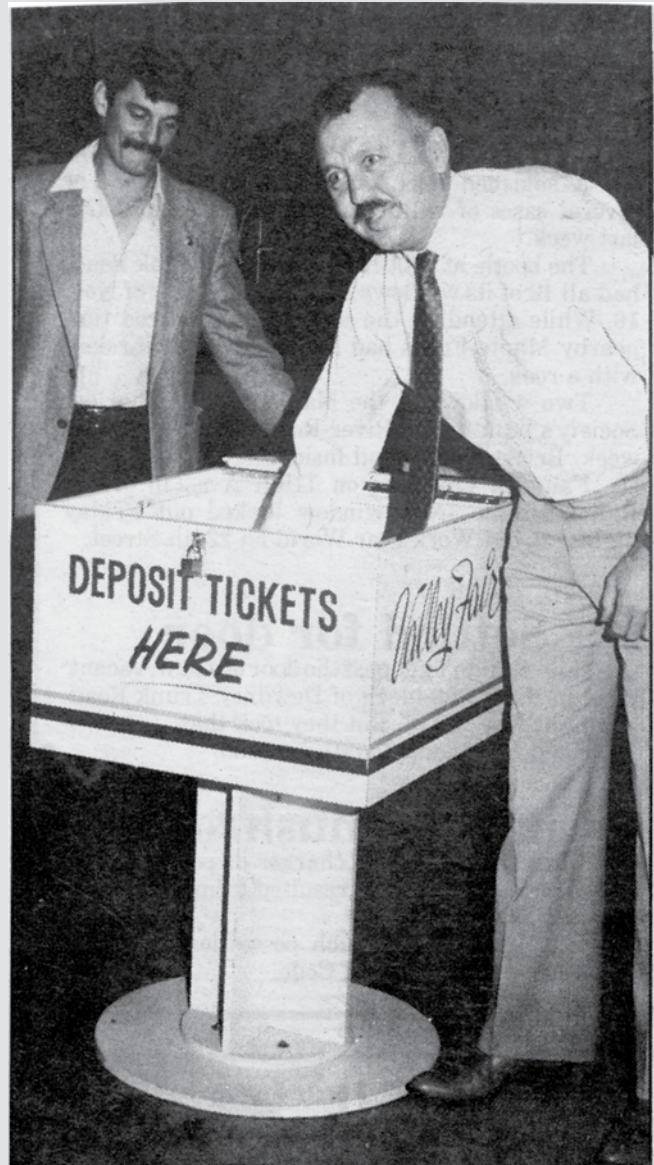
The Raffle-Dance will be at Thornhill Hall on November 19th. Tickets are priced at \$6.50 each, and include light refreshments. Only 120 tickets are available, so phone 462-9068 or 462-8114 to reserve your ticket. Someone will go home a big winner; but everyone who attends will go home a winner for having spent a fun evening with neighbours and friends.

The Gazette 23 November 1983

MP Gerry St. Germain [drew] Tom Crum's winning ticket on the Whonnock Community Association's Thunderbird car raffle at Thornhill [Hall] Saturday night. The '83 Thunderbird was supplied by West Coast Motors. Funds for the raffle will go towards the construction of a new hall for Whonnock....

It couldn't have happened to a nicer couple. The winners of the Great Thunderbird Raffle were Tom and Heather Crum of 11318 Brunette Street, Haney. The excited new couple rushed to the hall as soon as they were able to get a babysitter after being phoned with the good news. Gerry St. Germain drew the winning ticket at the Whonnock Raffle Dance at Thornhill Hall on Saturday night. Over 100 people attended.

This first fundraising venture by the Whonnock Community Association raised over 11,000 dollars for the community centre. The financial report on the raffle and a discussion of other fund-raising ideas will be topics of discussion at the general meeting to be held at the No. 2 Firehall on 112th on Thursday, November 24 at 8:00 P.M. The Association now has a cause, a successful fund-raising endeavour, and a successful social function. Whonnock residents are invited to participate by joining their community association.



NEWS - NOV. 23/83

— News photo

'T' BIRD WINNER

Mission-Port Moody MP Gerry St. Germain pulls the winning ticket for a brand new automobile. Sponsored by the Whonnock Community Association, some \$11,000. was raised towards the construction of a community hall. Standing by is organizer Phil Johnson. Winners of the 1983 'T' Bird are Tom and Heather Crum of Maple Ridge.



1983–1984 Donation of Trees

Offers for donations of trees. A list of names as they appeared in Veronica Beale's records:

Mr. James
Mr. Shaw
Whonnock United
Elizabeth McAllan
Les Trask
Mr. and Mrs. Gratton
Norm Angell
Mrs. Dugway
Eda Cranston
Mrs. Musclow
Deborah Bachynsky
Ken Smith
Mrs. van Elten
B. J. Doig
Mr. Loveless
Dennis Streifel
Ray Town
Pat Wahl
Mr. Chamberlain
M. MacIntosh
J. Shull
Keiris Clouster
Jim Soloduik
Bob Carlson
G. Toner
David Smith
Mr. Booth
Greg Faurot
Valery Fenniger
Diane De Groot
Mrs. Pastone
Mary Cook
Mrs. Jervis

Minutes Whonnock Community Association, undated.

Fir & Hemlock – Tony [Beale] would like to get a commitment to start organizing his project. [He] now has professional feller. Allan moved that Tony chair a “tree acquisition committee”. Seconded by Larry De-Temple. Carried.

The Gazette: “What’s up in Whonnock,” 30 November 1983.

The next hall project is to ask Whonnock residents for a donation of a tree, The trees will be cut by a professional feller and sawed into lumber for the hall. If everyone donates one tree (and most of us can spare—or would like to get rid of one or more) we should have more than enough lumber and shakes. Please call Tony at 462-7445 or Les at 462-9849. Leave your name, telephone number and address if you can spare a tree. Donors will be acknowledged on a scroll in the new hall. Aside from helping the hall construction, you probably do yourselves a favour—get rid of that tree that is dangerously close to the barn, or the tree that shed leaves all over your lawn, or the one that drops needles all over your roof.

The Gazette: What’s in Whonnock, 7 December 1983.

Hey, Hey, Hey...Here Comes the Hall! In less than a week, and with only one mention in this column, about 40 trees have been donated to the hall. If you can spare any hemlocks, firs, or cedars, please call Tony at 462-7445 or Les at 462-9849 and leave your name and address and phone number. Donors will receive a personalized scroll and the hall will contain a master scroll of donors. As well as trees, the Whonnock Community Association is looking for someone to donate the use of a logging truck to haul the logs from the falling site to the sawmill. The Association would look after expenses. If you are willing to “help build a dream” call Tony at 462-7445.

Minutes Whonnock Community Association, 19 January 1984.

Les [Trask] read a letter sent to the Mayor asking for donation of large cedar trees at the site of the original Whonnock Hall, which were planted as commemorative trees, which would be the start of a donation ceremony to get our tree acquisition program [going].

Hall Committee looking into possibility of log building or other design alternatives. Have 70 some odd trees without any effort. Optimistic that many more will be donated. Have some contractors offering their services as overseers to build hall. Many people coming forward with donations of help to log as well as build. We will have an insurance policy to cover accidents and injury at construction.

Minutes Whonnock Community Association, 17 May 1984.

Allan Springman presented some hall plans and reported on activities and that the tree acquisition is going ahead, and have a logger who will split proceeds 50/50. Need more trees donated.

1984

THE YEAR STARTED with the now traditional Christmas Tree Burning co-sponsored by the No. 2 Fire Hall and the Whonnock Community Association. "About 150 people watched 200 trees go up in flames at Whonnock Lake." The next very successful event was a "Hard Times" dance in February at the Thornhill Hall, followed by another successful Easter Egg Hunt "in spite of the rain."

In November 1983 the Association had started asking for donations of trees. "If everyone donates one tree...we should have more than enough lumber and shakes." The program was abandoned when it became economically unfeasible.

In January the Building Committee had a meetings with Mike Murray and Alison Jones of Parks and Recreation and with the architect Ron Hoffart and his assistant Aldeen Moore to talk about the building, the access road and the site. At that time the thought was still very much of a "log-cabin style" building and the efforts to gather trees for the building was very much alive. This Building Committee was created leaving the Hall Committee to focus on fund raising. Les Trask and Bud Popadiuk volunteered for fund raising.

For a short time that spring it appeared that the new access road to Whonnock Lake Park and the future site of the hall would be constructed before building started, Operating Engineers would use it as a training project. When it became evident that construction of the road would normally be let for tender or that the Municipality would do the project, Operating Engineers withdrew since their training program was funded by participating contractors, who normally would have an opportunity to bid on the project. The new road was finished after the hall was completed.

Through Phil Johnson, Neon Products of Vancouver donated a lighted sign to the Whonnock Community Association. The sign, installed at the west side of the pump house, is still serving our community as a billboard of coming events and activities. Its installation was approved by Council with the note, "It is your responsibility to keep it in tidy condition."



1984 Building Committee

Ken Smith *
Allan Springman
Bob Carlson *
Fred Duriaux *
Les Trask
Tony Beale *
Gordon Hart (possibly)
Larry deTemple

* present at the January meeting.
Names from an agenda for the meeting probably written by Tony Beale, chair of the committee.

1984 – 1985 Election

President: Allan Springman
Vice President: Phil Johnson
Secretary: Sue Schulze
Treasurer: Francis Janes
Past president: Les Trask
Members at Large:
Caroline Sharpe
Sharon Robinson
OAP liaison: Olive Leaf
Memberships: Dena Popadiuk
Jean Ruttan

The Great Zucchini Contest winner.

"Whonnock Days" was on September 16 with Jean Ruttan, Phil Johnson, Sharon Robinson and Caroline Sharpe on the committee. There were a dozen events and more than a dozen craft and information tables and concessions.

1984 Hard Times Dance




The last “costume” party we attended was a hard times dance some years ago, sponsored by the Whonnock Community Association and held at Thornhill Hall. We won not only the costume prize, but a standing ovation. And to this day the memory is an embarrassment.

We spent a hilarious hour with a friend putting together costumes at Value Villlage. We arrived at the dance unfashionably late, thus making a dramatic entrance, in tattered long underwear (complete with drop seats), straw hats, and silly shoes,—to discover that everyone else was wearing blue jeans and old shirts—and it was too late to escape.

Neva Springman.

“Words from Whonnock” 25 May 1988

<p>W.C.A. Dance \$7.50</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p>	<p>PLACE OF THE  HUMP-BACK SALMON</p> <p>Whonnock Community Assn Hard Times Dance Sat. Feb. 11th - 8:00 to 1:00 P.M. Thornhill Hall Bar - Food - Prizes - \$7.50</p>
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Entrance ticket created by Jean Ruttan.

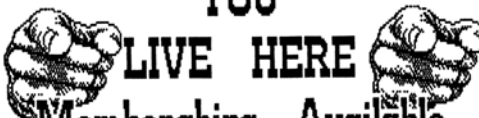

15 Reasons To Join The Whonnock Association

1. No Toll Charge On Bridges Or Tunnels
2. Free Use Of The Whonnock Airport
3. Complementary Fresh Air
4. Personalized Radar Trap
5. Free Admission To The Famous Whonnock Lake
6. Free Coffee At Whonnock Feed Store.
7. Free Admission To The Whonnock Zoo
8. No Charge At Any Whonnock Parking Meter
9. Free City Water (At The Pump)
10. Free Parking And Admission To Ball Games At Selvey Park
11. The Right To Criticize The Association President
12. Free Use Of Whonnock Hall, June - Sept /86

13. A Free Drink At The Whonnock Bar
14. No Charge For Ski Lifts And Rope Tows

And Probably The Best Reason Of All!!

BECAUSE
YOU

 **LIVE HERE** 
Memberships Available
At Whonnock Feed

These "15 reasons to join the Whonnock Association" were developed by John Page and his friends at the Whonnock Feed and were used to convince the residents that membership had some unexpected advantages. The date of the document is uncertain.



Whonnock Community Association

P.O. Box 134, Whonnock, B.C. V2X 8X8

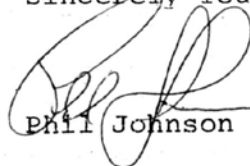
August 11, 1985

Dear Neighbour

I am writing this letter as an impassioned plea for help. We in the Whonnock Community Association have been working hard for several years to build a community centre that would serve as a meeting place and would be for the enjoyment of all the residents of Whonnock and surrounding area, especially our youth and seniors. In order to make this dream come true we must have the support of all of you. I know these days people are busy working and active with their children's various sporting and musical endeavors, and that people just get meetinged to death. I also know that some of you moved into this area to get away from the hustle and bustle of big city life, but there comes a time when we must all pull together and pitch in, this is the time. We are currently raising funds to build the Hall at Whonnock Lake and need your help by donating time or dollars. Our latest project is a raffle in which we could raise approximately \$15,000 of our \$80,000 goal. We are also applying to various Funding Agencies for approximately \$400,000. I cannot stress enough that we need your help. Please do not hesitate to call me and I would be only too pleased to discuss the project with you and the ways in which you can help. We are also holding the Annual Whonnock Days on September 15th rain or shine. You will have the opportunity of seeing the site and the proposed drawings of the hall. Come out and meet some of your neighbours.

For info call 462-9068.

Sincerely Yours,


Phil Johnson (President)

P.S. Our next General Meeting will be held Sept. 26 at Whonnock School.

1985 Raffle



Whonnock Community Association

— Proceeds to Community Centre Building Fund —

1st PRIZE - SATELLITE DISH or CASH VALUE

2nd PRIZE - COLOR T.V. or CASH VALUE

3rd PRIZE - V.C.R. or CASH VALUE

(CASH VALUE NOT INCLUDING SALES TAXES)

Draw Date: November 30, 1985

Ticket Price: 1 for \$2.00 or 3 for \$5.00

LOTTERY # 51452

**1ST PRIZE
WINNER**

Name: M KEARNS

Address: _____

RUSKIN

Phone: 462-9909

Nº 3347

**2ND PRIZE
WINNER**

Name: W. Wiebe

Address: 7972 Birch St

Phone: 266-9007

**WALTER WIEBE
EMPLOYED AT
VAN TERM
SHED #3 DRIVER**

Nº 3140

**3RD PRIZE
WINNER**

Name: BILL W'BEATH

Address: #108 9950

WILSON AVE

Phone: 462-7338

Nº 3775

**THANKS TO ALL THAT BOUGHT A TICKET
PHIL JOHNSON**

The records show who was involved with of the sales of raffle ticket books and how many they handled. In order of the quantities they were: Jean Ruttan (by far the most); Sandra Page (Whonnock Girl Guides); Sue Shulze; Phil Johnson; Sharon Robinson; and Allan Springman.

RHA

Mr. Allan Springman
Chairman, Building Committee
Whonnock Community Association
Maple Ridge B.C.

June 10, 1985

Dear Allan:

re: Proposed Whonnock Hall

Further to our recent meetings I am pleased to submit preliminary drawings and a budget estimate for the proposed Whonnock Hall. Our approach in the design process has been influenced greatly by the many discussions we have had with the Building Committee and with yourself, and Mr. Mike Murray.

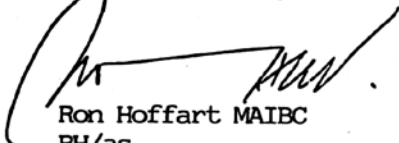
As this project continues I would welcome a continuation of this process of community input.

The construction cost of approximately \$ 406,000.00 for a building of 6030 sq. ft. results in a sq. ft. cost of about \$ 67.00 and would result in a building of reasonably high standards. In todays competitive market I believe that a tendered price to a qualified general contractor may well be 10% below these figures. Conversely if the construction industry has lost its competitive edge when it comes to tender price adjustments should be made accordingly. Our assumptions in preparing this budget are appended.

I would be pleased to add any clarification which may be required.

In closing let me thank you for this opportunity and wish you success in this timely and important project.

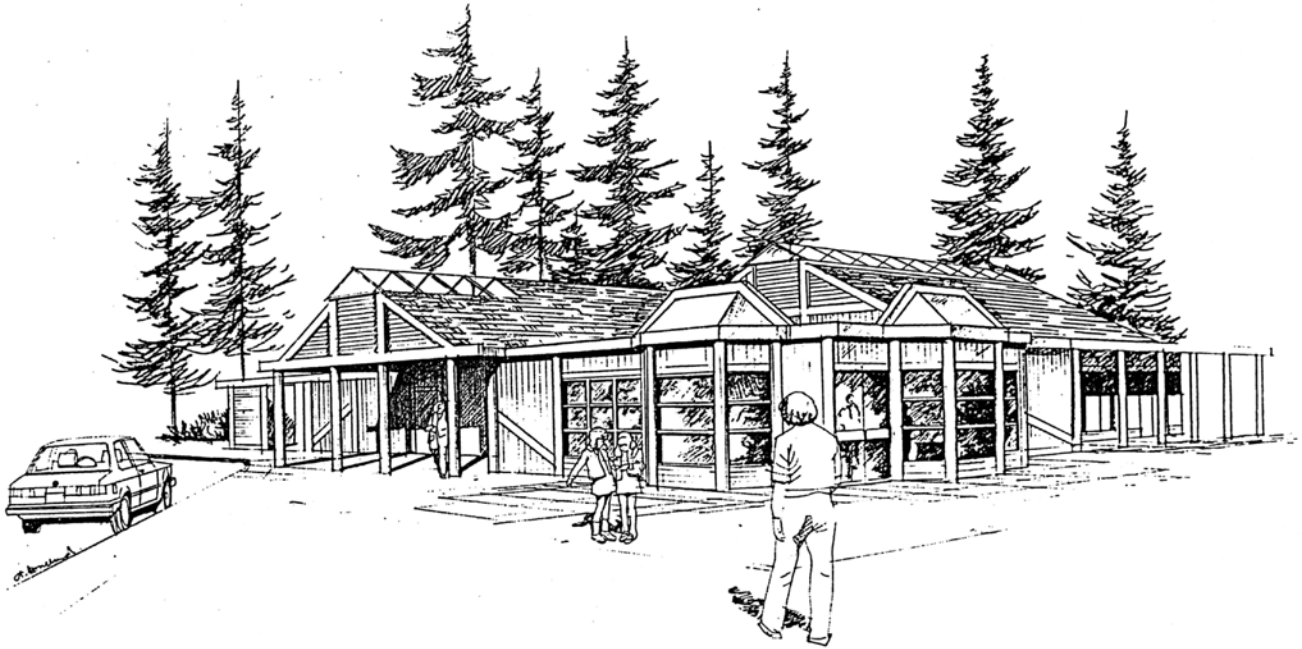
Yours very truly



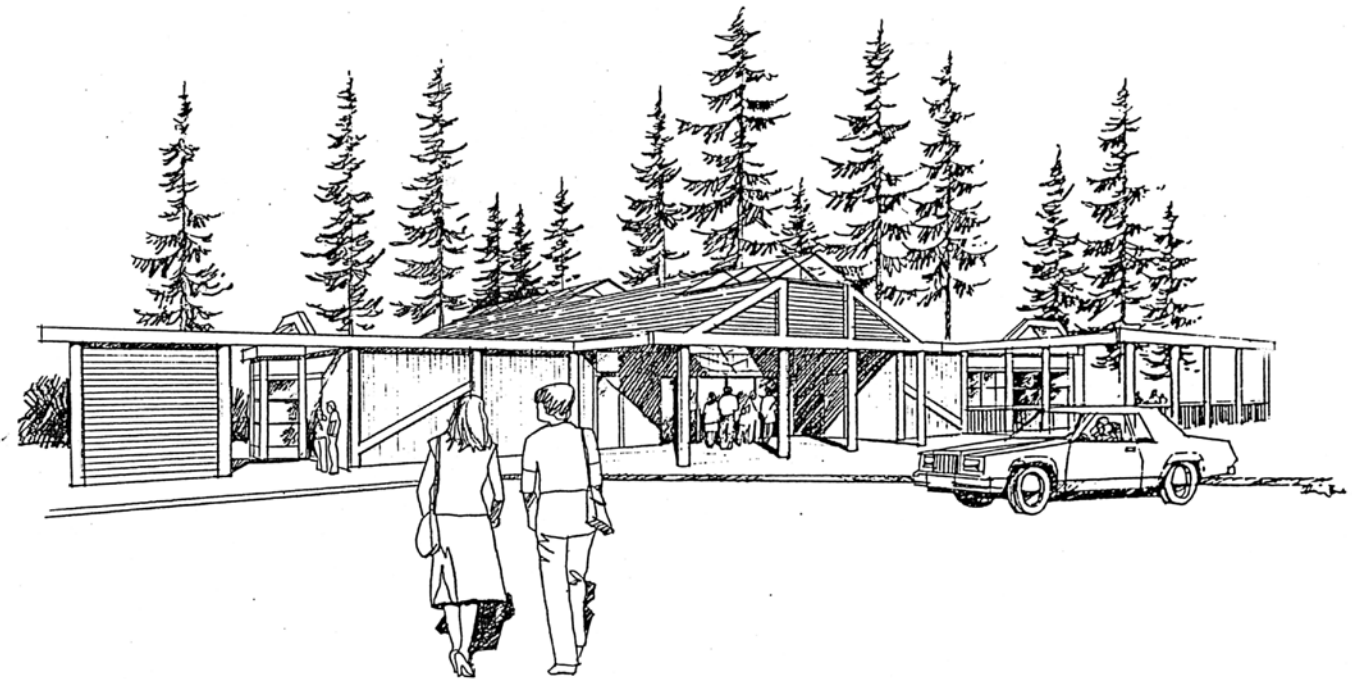
Ron Hoffart MAIBC
RH/as

Ron Hoffart Architect
205 - 22489 Lougheed, Maple Ridge, B.C. V2X 2T8
(604) 467-5822

1985



Whonnock Community Hall
Ron Hoffart Architects



Whonnock Community Hall
Ron Hoffart Architects

4th Annual

WHONNOCK DAY

Sept. 15/85 - 1pm - 5pm

Celebrating

WHONNOCK POSTAL STATION

100th BIRTHDAY

**For Rent..... "Spaces & Tables"
for Crafts & Hobbies**

ENQUIRE - Jean 462:7794 or Caroline 462:9881

CELEBRATED AGENDA

Firemen's Waterfight HoseDown!!!

The Great Zucchini Contest;

An Oldfashion Auction at 2:00 pm;

Scout Obstacles Course;

Children's Entertainment;

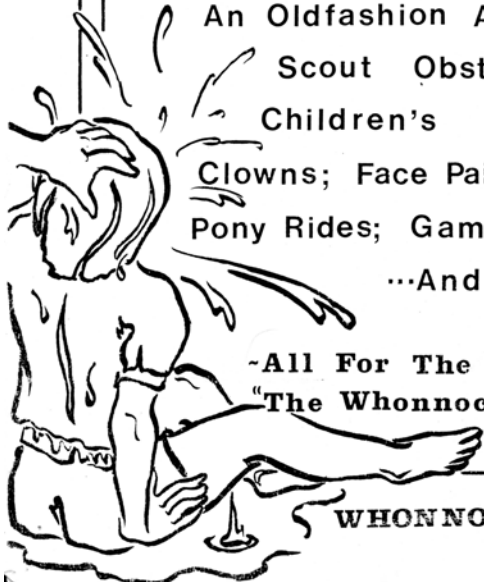
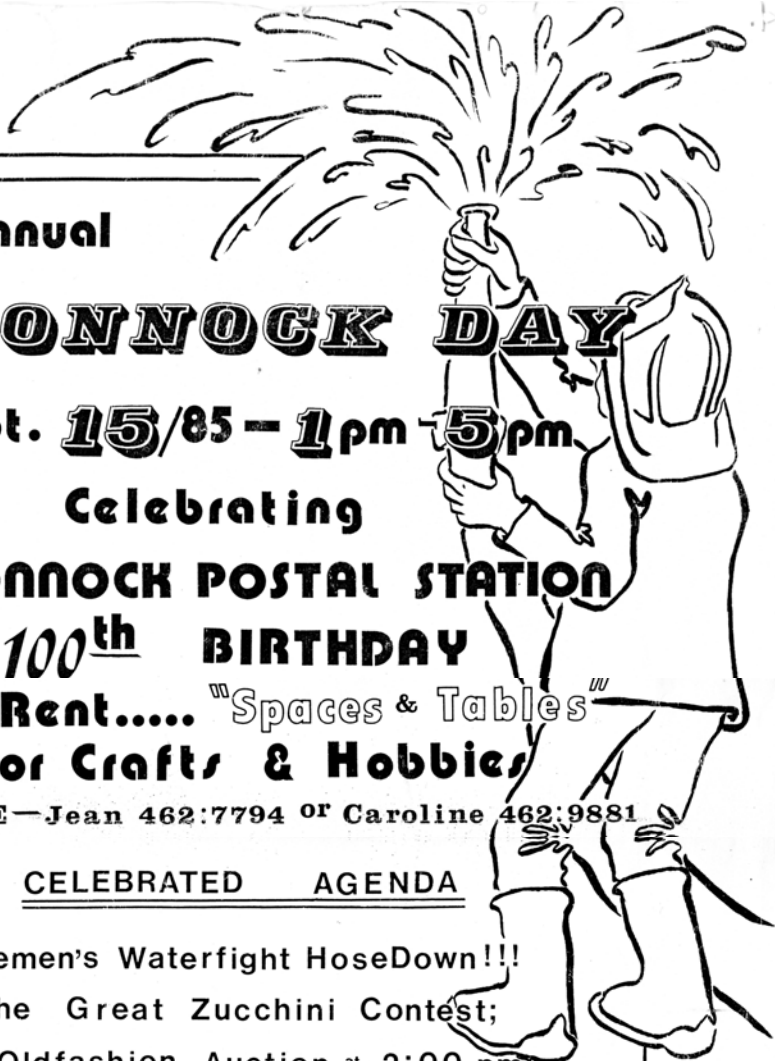
Clowns; Face Paintings; Pet Show;

Pony Rides; Games; Food Galore!

...And More...

**-All For The Building Of.....
"The Whonnock Community Centre!"**

WHONNOCK COMMUNITY ASSOC:



1985

IN THE 1980S THE WHONNOCK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION had no minute book. Most of the secretaries made handwritten notes of the meetings on loose sheets of paper and only the occasional document in the form of complete minutes survived. The minutes of the annual general meetings are an exception, but even those are sometimes missing. For 1985 there are only half a dozen brief notes of meetings and the minutes of the annual general meeting are missing. A lottery licence application shows the names of the executive. A letter addressed to Allan Springman shows that he was chairman of the building committee.

The preceding pages give an idea about some of the things going on: (1) the impassioned plea for support to the community; (2) the results of a lottery for a satellite dish, a colour TV, or a VCR; (3) a letter from Architect Ron Hoffart and some drawings of the proposed hall design; (4) the poster for the “4th Annual Whonnock Day,” celebrating “Whonnock Postal Station’s 100th Birthday.”

The centennial of Whonnock’s post office caused the Whonnock Community Association” to plan the production of a booklet that would “discuss the historical background of the community of Whonnock, with the major emphasis on the establishment of postal service in the area, in celebration of its 100th anniversary.” The project was funded by the provincial and federal governments, and two students Karen Souster and Bridget Trask, were employed for the summer. Sharon Robinson was the co-ordinator of the “Historical Project.” The team members collected an impressive amount of data in a few months but it came not to a publication. Most important was the invaluable information gathered in interviews with the old-timers; a lasting contribution made by these three people to our knowledge of our history.

Chris Mellalieu, concerned about traffic safety in Whonnock, submitted a list to the municipality with 22 recommendations for signing, street lighting and other improvements. His recommendations resulted in streetlights, intersection signs and limited visibility signs being installed.

A surviving meeting note shows that in September a petition was received from the Ridge Canoe and Kayak Club asking the Whonnock Community Association to support their efforts to put up a temporary facility to host regattas on the lake. Facilities for RCKC became part of future expansions in the plans for the new hall.

Then there were of course the annual Christmas Tree Burning and Easter Egg Hunt as well as Whonnock Day, at least one dance and other unreported events to raise funds.



Whonnock post office, early 1920s. Person standing in the door not yet identified.

Executive as shown in an Application for Lottery Licence, June 1985:

President:	Phil Johnson
Vice President:	Chris Mellalieu
Secretary:	Sue Schulze
Treasurer:	Francis Janes



Province of
British Columbia

Ministry of
Environment

Parliament Buildings
Victoria
British Columbia
V8V 1X4

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

June 09, 1986

Dear Ms. Schulze:

As you know, the Whonnock Memorial Hall Society was registered in December, 1975, "to provide, acquire, and operate a community hall and centre".

Since that time I have followed the progress made by those involved with the project, and I have been tremendously impressed with the interest shown by citizens like yourself, in promoting and encouraging this community effort. The project has been recognized as a worthwhile contribution to community life, and I have urged government assistance on an ongoing basis since receiving your representations.

I am pleased to advise that my efforts have met with success, and the Honourable Grace McCarthy, Minister responsible for the British Columbia Lottery Fund, has today advised me that approval has been given to a grant in the amount of \$135,333, towards construction costs for this hall.

In making this announcement, I must pay tribute to Mr. Allan Springman, Chairman of the Building Committee, who has been very much involved in making this whole thing possible. I also commend Mayor Danny Griffin and his Council, along with his planners, who have also participated. Everyone has worked tirelessly to see the project brought on-stream, and I congratulate you on your achievement. I know that the building will now proceed, and will offer a centre for community associations - associations which we all recognize as important ingredients - in our lives.

Please accept my thanks for your continuing support in my efforts to serve our community. I extend my best wishes to all involved for the successful completion of this excellent facility.

Sincerely yours,

F.C. Austin Pelton
Minister

1986

IT WAS WHONNOCK'S GOOD FORTUNE that Austin Pelton was Social Credit MLA for the riding of Dewdney. As alderman and as mayor of Maple Ridge from 1982 to 1983 he had first-hand knowledge of the efforts of Whonnock to get a hall back and he was ready to help the community to reach that goal. Norm Jacobsen, another former mayor of Maple Ridge, was also an MLA at that time. He, as Pelton, had first-hand knowledge of Whonnock and its ambitions.

In a letter dated in March 1986, recommending the Whonnock Community Association to any organization considering to assist them in any way, Austin Pelton, then Minister of Environment wrote:

I have been a friend of the Whonnock Community Association for a number of years; during my tenure as an Alderman, and also as the Mayor of Maple Ridge and, yes, latterly as the MLA for Dewdney.

Our continuing good relationships and rapport relate directly to the way that the Whonnock Community Association does business. They are dedicated and work very hard for the betterment of their corner of our community and they do this always in a businesslike but friendly way. Confrontation and undue pressure do not number in the modus operandi.

A few month later the good news arrived that approval had been given of a grant from B.C. Lotteries Fund of one-third of the construction costs to a maximum \$135,333.

Allan Springman and Peter Janis proposed to create a Lake Centre executive with Ruskin, Websters Corners, Whonnock, Thornhill, and Albion, making the new building an Eastside Community Centre. They sent a letter to the relevant societies, including the Whonnock Community Association. The concept of a community hall "for all residents of the east end of Haney [sic]" remained, but the nothing came of a joint management of Whonnock Lake Centre.

The rural route of Whonnock, a contracted mail delivery service for the area beyond a half-mile from the Whonnock post office, was moved to Maple Ridge. The name Maple Ridge rather than Whonnock was to be used in addresses. All wanted to retain the name Whonnock on the address. Permission to do so was granted, but few residents today are using that option.

Hon. F. C. Austin Pelton,
Minister of Environment,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B. C.
V8V 1X4.

Dear Hon. Pelton:

We, as residents of your constituency, support the construction of a Community Centre in Whonnock.

We ask you to support the Whonnock Community Association in its' efforts to bring this much needed facility to the area.

Yours very truly,

1986 – 1987 Executive

President: Chris Mellalieu
Vice President: Frances Janes
Secretary: Barb Gratton
Treasurer: Bill Gratton
Members at Large:
Sue Schulze
Jean Ruttan
Peter Janis
Olive Leaf
Tracy Marshall

5 January: Christmas Tree Burning
30 March: Easter Egg Hunt
19 April: Ruskin-Whonnock (Twin Cities) Bluegrass Concert at Ruskin Hall
10 May: Whonnock Spring Dance at the Ruskin Hall
27 May: Annual General Meeting WCA
21 September: Whonnock Day

Opposite page: Letter addressed by Austin Pelton to Sue Schulze with the news about the grant. A similar letter is on file addressed to Frances Janes.

Left: From a form letter asking for Austin Pelton's support for the efforts to build the hall. A note suggests that 135 form letters and 12 individual letters were sent to Mr. Pelton's office.

Words from Whonnock

26 March 1986

Even in the idyllic setting of Whonnock the modern calamity of burnout can occur. The greatest opportunity in the history of the Whonnock Community Association is slipping by. We have a chance at \$150,000 from BC Lotteries Fund but the campaign to get letters of support is failing because of the lack of people—20 or 30 canvassers are needed to solicit letters of support with only a few hours needed for any one person.

The community needs the facility, but the provincial government needs an indication of the community desire. Austin Pelton wants to help us but he cannot do it alone. He needs us. You aren't being asked for money, just a little time.

Whonnock, Ruskin and east enders as a group need to come together but everyone must get involved. Leaving it to "the other guy" isn't working. He is leaving it to you. Call Allan Springman now at 467-3811 or 462-8114, leave your name and number. We'll get back to you with details.

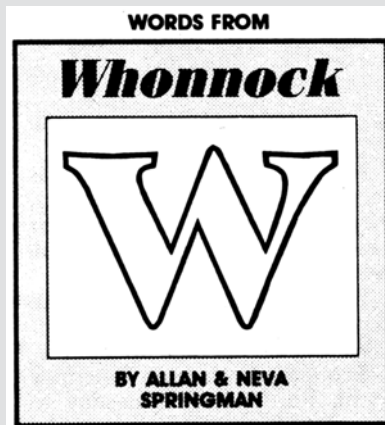
Words from Whonnock

11 June 1986

It was nice to see a number of new faces at the general meeting of the Whonnock Community Association on May 27th. New members are always welcome as are any ideas and suggestions for the Community Association.

Newly elected executive is as follows: President – Chris Mellalieu; Vice President – Francis Janes; Treasurer – Gill Gratton; Past President – Phil Johnson. Members at Large: Sue Schulze, Jean Ruttan; Allan Springman; Peter Janis; Olive Leaf, and Tracy Marshall.

The outgoing executive deserve a large thank you for their work of the last year. They are the people who, with the help of others in the community, brought you such things as Whonnock Days, a Spring Dance and the Easter Egg Hunt. As usual a few people did a lot of work



throughout the year.

Make this the year to get involved. The new executive would welcome your input and/or your help. Be a part of your community. If you have enjoyed Whonnock Days, why not volunteer to help out. If you have enjoyed the dances, perhaps you could help at the next dance. If you've enjoyed the Easter Egg Hunt, perhaps you could lay an egg...

For more information on how you can work with and for your own community, phone 462-8114. We'll put you in touch with the new executive who would welcome your call.

Words from Whonnock

3 September 1986

You've enjoyed the flash and international flavour of Expo. And you have probably just been to the PNE where, if you were lucky, you were able to watch demonstrations by the Whonnock Weavers.

Now you're ready for a true neighbourly country day and Whonnock has one for you.

Mark September 21 on your calendar. Whonnock Day starts at 8:00 A.M. and runs non-stop all day. The annual events, held at Whonnock Lake, has something to please everyone—you can even bring your Expo guests.

The day begins with a interdenominational church service, followed by a country breakfast. If you're looking for bargains (and who isn't?) the "Whonnauction" offers some of the best buys in the Lower Mainland. Donations from local merchants and supporters have made available a wide range of items which all Whonnock residents can use—everything from feed to time with a backhoe—with all proceeds going to the Whonnock Hall fund.

Children's activities include pony rides, a treasure hunt, sing-alongs, the Boy Scout obstacle course, Chase-a-Clown and face painting.

You'll want to enter your dog in the "Super Dog" canine show. And of course your zucchini can compete in the "Great Zucchini Contest," which unlike the dog contest does not stress obedience.

And if the thought of all that activity makes you hungry, Whonnock Day provides great country cooking, coffee and dessert. Wander through the craft displays, walk along the lake, visit with your neighbours—it's your day.

Craft and produce tables are available for a rental fee of \$5.00 per table. For more information call Jean at 462-7794 or Barb at 462-8031.

The fifth annual Whonnock Day is brought to you by those same wonderful people who are working so hard to provide a community hall.

1987

Ottawa, Ont. 6 April 1987. Press release.

Gerry St. Germain, MP for Mission-Port Moody, announced funding to the tune of \$238,904 for the Whonnock Community Association on behalf of the Honourable Benoit Bouchard, Minister of Employment and Immigration, under section 38, Job Creation Project. During the 34-week period 15 people will be hired to complete Phase 1 of the Whonnock Community Hall. Project participants will work on the plumbing, electrical, mechanical and general construction of the structure. St. Germain said that “this project will provide the opportunity for participants to enhance their skills, while providing lasting benefits to the community.

1987 – 1988 Executive

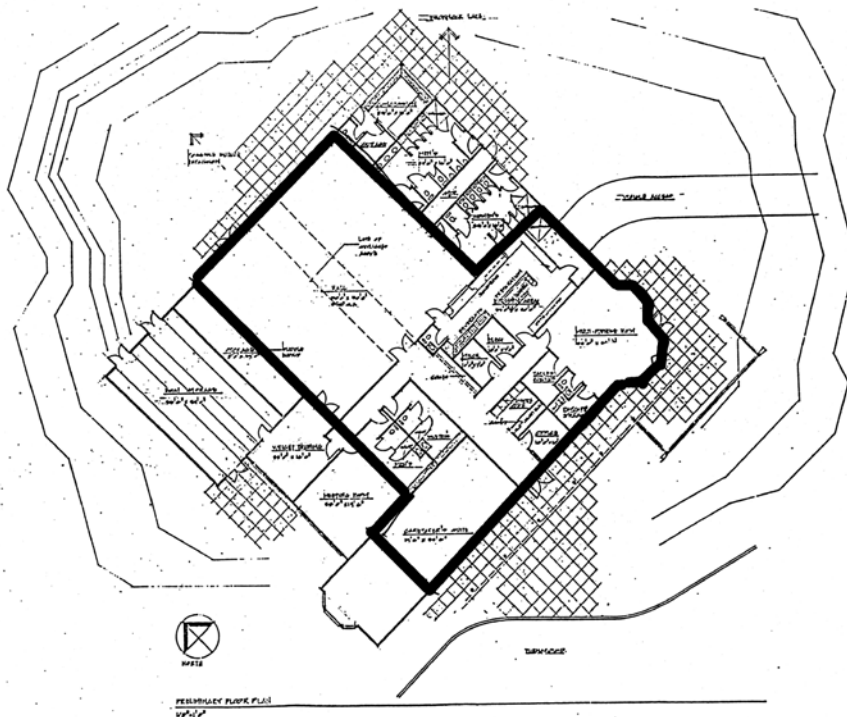
President: Chris Mellalieu
Vice President: Allan Springman
Secretary: Marion Slayter
Treasurer: May Gormly

Members at Large:

Phil Johnson
Jean Ruttan
Barb Gratton
Bill Gratton
Majorie Shubards
Monica Dodsworth
Ken Smith
Olive Leaf
Tracy Marshall

GERRY ST. GERMAIN, who had drawn the winning ticket for the car raffle in 1983—the first substantial contribution to the hall fund—was very with the society and its benefits to the community.” He also believed in the need of a community hall for Whonnock.

St. Germain’s announcement was perhaps not unexpected. “Words from Whonnock” of 28 January 1987 reported that survey work would begin shortly and that a sign would be erected on the site, marking “the end of a dream and a start of your community hall.” The Springmans also reported that Mike Murray of Parks and Recreation, architect Ron Hoffart, Bill Slater of the Ridge Canoe and Kayak Club and representatives of the Whonnock Community Association had met a week earlier to discuss the site of the building. “The site for the Community Hall has been changed slightly. The new site will take the facility closer to the lake, making it more accessible and putting change facilities and concessions closer to the action.” The new canoe facility would be included in the next



Sketch-plan of the Whonnock Community Hall as presented to Council in April 1987. The heavy line shows approximate area of Phase I. To the left (west) of the Phase I area is the RCKC addition and on the top right, in the northeast corner, are the planned public washrooms and changing facilities. Because of the washrooms and change rooms no windows were planned for the west side of the hall.



Whonnock Community Association

P.O. Box 134, Whonnock, B.C. V2X 8X8

April 14, 1987

Mr. D. Griffith, Mayor & Council.
District Municipality of Maple Ridge,
11995 Haney Place,
Maple Ridge, B.C.

Dear Sirs,

The Whonnock Community Association has gathered sufficient funds to proceed with the construction of Whonnock Lake Centre in Whonnock Lake Park. We would now request that you confirm the site and give us your permission to proceed. There is considerable urgency in this matter as the federal grant requires us to start construction April 21, 1987 or as soon thereafter as possible.

For your information funding sources at present are:

Employment and Immigration Canada	\$234,039.00
B.C. Lottery fund	\$135,333.00
Cash on hand	\$ 18,000.00
Pledges in materials, kind and labour	\$ 15,000.00
Unfunded	\$ 7,951.00

Total = \$410,323.00

The project cost budget of \$410,323.00 for construction of Phase 1 has been supplied by the project architect, Mr. Ron Hoffart. Enclosed with this request are the preliminary drawings with the portion for immediate construction outlined in yellow.

The following items will be supplied to the municipality for its' approval.

- 1) soils report
- 2) site survey
- 3) final building plans.

The building will conform to all relevant building codes and will be built to the requirements of the municipality.

As well the association, understands that upon completion the structure will be deeded to the municipality and the association will lease back the premises at a nominal \$1.00 per year. The association would also undertake to fund the operating costs.

Thanking you in advance for your support.

Yours truly,

Allan Springman,
Chairman, hall committee.



Olive Leaf a long time resident of Whonnock, breaks the ground for the new Whonnock Community Centre at a ceremony Saturday. Pictured with her from left to right are pioneer Whonnock residents Elizabeth Aalgaard, Isabel and Brian Byrnes, and MP Gerry St. Germain, MLAs Austin Pelton and Norm Jacobsen and Maple Ridge Mayor Danny Griffin.

Page 14 - THE MAPLE RIDGE NEWS, Wednesday, May 6, 1987



After 12 years, the residents of Whonnock will finally get to have their cake and eat it too. Despite a sopping day Saturday, the sun shone just long enough to get the job done at the site of the new Whonnock Lake recreation centre in Whonnock Lake Park. Participants at the ground breaking ceremonies included three levels of government, senior residents of the community and new young families who are just moving into the area. The new \$420,000 recreation hall will be nestled in a stand of fir trees on the shores of the lake. Chris Mellalieu, president of the Whonnock Community Association, presided over the ceremonies and held the cake for (left to right) long-time community residents Elizabeth Aalgaard, Isabel Byrnes, Brian Byrnes, Mission-Port Moody M.P. Gerry St. Germain, Olive Leaf and MLA Austin Pelton. The first phase of construction of the rec centre that began Monday includes a multi-purpose hall and a full-service kitchen. Other phases to come later will include a concession area, meeting room and storage area for the kayak club. NEWS PHOTO

Design of the pin seen worn by officials at the sod-turning ceremony.



Words from Whonnock 13 May 1987

About 60 people turned out May 2 on a gray, drizzly day for the official sod-turning ceremonies for the new Whonnock Lake Centre.

As the group huddled under umbrellas, MP Gerry St. Germain began his speech—and the sun came out! While other speakers—MLA Austin Pelton, MLA Norm Jacobsen and Mayor Danny Griffin—all joked about who had arranged for the sun, locals basked in its warmth, and in the secret knowledge that their project must be blessed.

Those who attended the ceremony had a chance to chat with friends about the realization of the dream. They shared in “birthday” cake and went home wearing commemorative badges and pleased smiles.

Smiles went strained the next day when hall committee members found the large sign which had been set up to mark the site was vandalized during the night. One can only wonder what pleasure there could have been in such an act.

1987



Detail from a Whonnock Day Poster 1986.

The Hall Committee, charged with the construction of the hall and all that was going on with getting the building ready for the users, consisted of three members: Allan Springman (chair), Phil Johnson, and Chris Mellalieu. Bud Popadiuk was appointed site superintendent and Ron Hoffart was the architect.

Aside from the construction and all that went on with getting the building ready for the use of the community, the volunteers of Whonnock Community Association continued with their programs, membership drives, and fund-raising efforts. The tree-burning event took place at the lake, the Easter Egg Hunt was as popular as always, a Spring Fling was arranged at the Ruskin Hall, where an impromptu auction raised \$270 for Rick Hansen. A grant was arranged for Summer in the Park. Whonnock Day was arranged for the fall.

RCKC gave a summer program "Introduction to Canoeing and Kayaking" and an advanced course as well. They held regattas on the lake as well that summer.

The Association would act as patrons of RCKC as it is and should remain part of the community. The Association would also be sponsors of the Whonnock Cubs and Scouts.

ON 1 MAY 1987, MIKE MURRAY, PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR, confirmed that Maple Ridge Council adopted the following resolution:

That on recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting of April 27, 1987, permission be granted to the Whonnock Association to construct Phase I of the Whonnock Hall in Whonnock Lake Park, subject to the submission of a detailed site survey, acceptable detailed building plans, and an acceptable soils report.

"I recognize your desire to commence construction immediately," Murray wrote, asking not only to submit the site survey, soils report and building plans, but also proof of liability insurance. He would be prepared to arrange for clearing of the building site by prison crews and counted on a crew from the Whonnock Community Association to put a security fence around the construction site.

Matters progressed rapidly according to "Words from Whonnock" of 13 May 1987:

For all those who don't know their dream from a hole in the ground, the new Whonnock Lake Centre will soon be both. The site has now been cleared and fenced and excavation will begin shortly.

A number of local residents have been hired. Bud Popadiuk is the project superintendent. Marilyn McIntosh, the newly-hired project secretary is currently working out of her home on Graham Street (access road to Whonnock Lake Park), until the construction trailer has a telephone and power.

Donations of materials, equipment, etc. are still needed. If you can help call Marilyn at 462-7974, or Allan at 462-8114.

When you're in the neighbourhood, drop by. The new hall will play an important part in the social life of Maple Ridge for generations to come. Show your grandchildren a photograph of its beginning.

Congratulations on a job well done—and a job well started.

Thelma Lemieux replaced Marilyn McIntosh as site secretary on 6 June 1987 and kept a diary of the day-to-day progress from the day she started work, June 6th 1987, until 11 December 1987, the day when construction came to a stop because of a lack of funding and her employment ended. The diary and photographs on the following pages give an idea about the activities on the building site.

Clearing the site.



Diary of the Construction of Whonnock Lake Centre

Written by Thelma Lemieux beginning June 8, 1987 when started working here.

Building of Recreation Hall Started May 3, 1897 – 19 employees; 17 U.I. top up, 2 regular.

- June 8, Monday — Johnson Pole put in the temporary pole for the telephone. Nice day.
- June 9, Tuesday — [I] met with Vivian at CEC office for instructions. Allan Springman introduced me to Bud Popadiuk [general contractor].
- June 10, Wednesday — Park & Recreation Board could be here today re septic site; didn't arrive.
- Electrician (P.O. # 14329) Maranatha Home Services put in temporary power to temporary pole.
- June 11, Thursday — Nice day; cloudy and sunshine. Well driller should be here. Bud talked to Martin Reynolds (engineer) regarding an engineer's certificate for the well. [I] phone Partric Fon [?] re this certificate. Not in. (do we need it? Bud enquired (June 12) and—no we do not need it.
- June 12, Friday — I met with Kevin today (his office ½ hr.) BC Tel here (called Chris). Chris [Mellalieu] arrived shortly to discuss details regards installation of the telephone. "Raining" off and on.
- Allan Springman dropped by the office last night after I had gone home and informed us of the new name: "Whonnock Lake Centre."
- Bud wants a sign posted on the water tower. Sign to read: "Needed – ¼" plywood. Any condition. Phone Bud: 462-7598." I phoned Chris. His wife Cathy told me Phil Johnson has the letters. I phoned Phil Johnson—he is at work. I'll call tonight or on the weekend. Bud will take care of this.
- Phone was hooked up today (private line) #462-8212. "hurray, hurray!!!"
- I took the UI card in to log CEC today.
- June 15, Monday — Cloudy and cool; sunny afternoon. The well-driller's rig broke down Friday night and is still un-repaired Monday morning.
- "Orders from Chris—starting today" All purchase orders must have 1 signature. Open accounts: Whonnock Feed and Hardware. Harco Service, Curtis Lumber.
- Phil Johnson introduced me to his wife, Linda. Phil was here all morning.
- June 16, Tuesday — Cloudy and cool 8:00 am.
- Well-driller's rig is still here un-repaired.
- Allan Springman stopped in to sign some cheques and leave some papers to be filed.
- Brian Downey called regarding helping me re-do the first status report. Can't make it today; will be here tomorrow.
- Phil Johnson arrived around noon today. Still cloudy and cool at 1:00 pm. Cloudy and cool all day.
- June 17, Wednesday — Cloudy and cool; the lake is like a sheet of glass. 8:30 am. The well-drilling rig is still here un-repaired. I phoned Perry's Well Drilling to-day—he should be back in operation Friday.
- 10:30 AM. Clouds breaking up, sunny and getting warm.
- Bud says the concrete forms will be completed in a few more days.
- Whonnock Mills will buy the logs we have, but we must have a truck deliver the logs to them.
- June 18, Thursday — Warm and sunny. The drilling rig is still here in the driveway un-repaired. There is a mail strike on right now; started Tuesday 16th. The UI top-up cheques will be late and some of the men refused to work. Chris was here at the time and quickly made a few phone calls to try and make some alternate arrangements. Nothing can be done, but it calmed the men down and they went back to work. The cheques usually come in the mail to each man and they generally have them by the second Friday—tomorrow. However, we are told they can pick them up Monday or Tuesday. Hope everything goes well between now and then. I made up a form and had everyone sign it to authorize Cliff Langerik to pick up the cheques at Maple Ridge office.
- June 19, Friday — Sunny, warm, a beautiful day. The drilling rig is still here un-repaired. He is supposed to be here to finish the well. The UI cheques are at the various offices so no problem there. (The UI cheques arrived on time.)
- I have to be at Block Bros. to meet with Allan and Chris to deliver a cheque for BC Hydro to be signed. I also have to meet with Kevin and Paulette at Kevin's office 1:00 pm. (Meeting with Paulette lasted to 4:30)
- 11:00 pm phone Perry's Well to see what is happening; he has not arrived. I left a message on an answering machine to call us and let us know what is happening.
- The status report for the first 4-week period must be done again.
- June 22, Monday — Cloudy, raining, cool. The well driller has his rig repaired and we have water. Saturday, June 20, 1997 he gave us a jar of water to take in to be tested and someone on shift over the weekend (unknowingly) used it. So we need another sample. The well is 91.8 ft @ 10 gal. a minute.
- Allan has a meeting set for tomorrow noon to be held here; includes Allan, Chris, Phil, and Bud.



I phoned Brian at home and set up a meeting with him, here at the office Wednesday, June 24. Bud also wants a meeting with him.

June 23, Tuesday — Cloudy with sunny periods, cool and warm both. I called Kevin today to speak with WCB about opening an account. I called yesterday and could get nowhere; the girl spent at least five minutes asking me questions I could not answer. I am turning it over to Kevin. He will get back to me on it.

We are waiting to pour concrete. Bud has become very involved in getting approvals, certificates, engineers, water analysis and so on. This is keeping him going from Maple Ridge to Whonnock and back. Hurray! We are now ready to pour the concrete as soon as Martin Reynolds signs the well driller's report. Bud spent 2 ½ hours on this, this morning.

I called Keep & Son Logging (820-0689) yesterday, under Bud's instructions, to come and pick up the logs that were taken down during the clearing. They should be here Tuesday or Wednesday.

One of our carpenters, "Chuck," quit Friday, so we have only one carpenter now.

June 24, Wednesday — Sunny and warm. Y.C. Chow, Eng. (structural engineer) made his inspection last night. Everything OK; ready to pour concrete.

The building permit is ready; we just need a cheque signed and we can pick it up. We now have a building permit #14904 — \$1987.00.

Phil Johnson was here again today doing various jobs as well as yesterday with the fire truck to try and get a water sample from the well. He got the sample today (3 jars).

Bud has arranged for the concrete to be poured tomorrow.

Allan was here for a while this morning going over some detail with Bud and myself; he also signed some cheques.

June 25, Thursday — Sunny, hot; beautiful. H&R Redi Mix poured concrete today; started about 10:00 am.

Phil called the newspapers; he wanted them to come and take some pictures and maybe give us a story. They did not show up to my knowledge although they may have been there and I didn't see them.

Some tarpaper arrived today as well. Poured concrete till 4:30. We had a very tired and hot crew.

June 26, Friday — Hot, hot, hot day; the park is crowded with people. Chris dropped in and signed some cheques. Phil put in some hours of work. Ron Hoffart was here and Allan came by.

The workers removed the forms; the concrete is dry.

Keep Bros Logging picked up the big logs and took them to Whonnock Mills. Bob Seabell (Whonnock Mills 462-7111). I phoned about 4:00 pm Friday to notify them.

June 29, Monday — Hot, hot, hot!! The park is crowded. Chris brought a filing cabinet in and signed some cheques.

The men are painting sealer on the concrete and removing 2-x-4's and the remaining forms.

Allan dropped by for a while.

June 30, Tuesday — Hot, hot, hot! Work as usual. Busy day in the heat. Putting drain rock over the drain tile.

July 1, Wednesday — Hot, but a little cooler. This is a holiday but we are taking Friday July 3rd instead. Bud and Gerrit and Jean [?] are shovelling backfill over the drain tile in front of the trailer. Phil came by and shovelled dirt as well. It is not too hot right now: 1:00 pm.

July 2, Thursday — Raining, cold and muddy. Regular work day; worked on ground preparation.

July 3, Friday — Holiday for us today instead of Wednesday July 1st.

July 6, Monday — Wet, cold, and muddy. Bud, carpenters and labourers are shovelling dirt in a trench. Loads of sand arrived this afternoon.

July 7, Tuesday — Rainy, cold, muddy. The workers and Bud shovelled sand all day. It's really miserable outside.

July 8, Wednesday — Cloudy, cold, wet. The workers are shovelling sand again today and more truckloads of sand arrived today. Bud ordered material from Curtis Lumber today. It should arrive Friday.

July 9, Thursday — Cloudy, not raining, and a little warmer. The men are still preparing the ground for concrete. Bud keeps giving them good instructions which keeps them working and keeps the morale high. They really like Bud. He is doing an excellent job. He works right with them all day long. They take breaks and lunch at the same time.

July 10, Friday — Sunny, warm at 10:30 am. Bud is giving a training session and instructing the men on the procedures of handling the concrete pouring of the slab; we expect the truck to be here in 30 minutes.

The concrete slab was poured. The truck arrived about 11:00 am. All went well.

The second Status Report completed and mailed to Paulette.

July 13, Monday — Sunny, warm, not too hot. We are starting the framing today. The sole plate is being put on today as well as the floor joists are being started.

July 14, Tuesday — Sunny, warm. The floor joists are being put in today. A tree was also removed. Taken down and cut up.

July 15, Wednesday — Sunny, warm and a little cooler today. Bud felled two trees this morning. They are being bucked up right now. We are still working on the sole plate and floor joists.

July 16, Thursday — Cloudy but warm. We are still working on the floor joists; going up nicely. We have a good crew.



Laying the footing of the main hall.



Forming the concrete walls.



Leveling the skin coat in the crawlspace area.

We are still trying to get BC Hydro to hook up our temporary power. Everything is inspected and ready to go. The power is supposed to go in today.

Allan came by today.

Brian Downey gave instructions to write a letter to the CEIC people (and include in the next status report) to send any future cheques directly to the bank and also to have a letter typed up to that effect and have it signed by Chris or Allan.

July 17, Friday — Warm, sunny. We received a cheque from Whonnock Industry for the log purchase \$372,60 (invoice 673).

We are still working on the floor joists and pony wall.

Allan, Bud and Ron Hoffart had a meeting here today. They sat at the picnic table under the trees. Chris came by and signed some cheques for me. He will be away for about a week.

July 20, Monday — Cloudy, sunny, warm. Nice day for working condition outside. Phil is back and helping to lay the plywood for the sub-floor. The floor joists will be completed today.

July 21, Tuesday — Cool today and cloudy. Still on the sub-floor in the caretakers suite.

July 22, Wednesday — Sunny, cloudy, and cool. Bud and Rangy (Bungy and Rangy) erected the first stud for the stud walls this morning in the caretakers suite. Phil came by and signed some cheques for me.

July 23, Thursday — Sunny, hot. Bud bought a watermelon and we all had some for the afternoon break. Framing the day-care. Allan came by. Brian dropped in.

July 24, Friday — Sunny, hot. We had a thunderstorm in the morning. It was clear by noon. Caretaker's suite framing is completed and just about finished the office section. Workers Compensation came by this morning. Left a report and said he was pleased with the way Bud was running things.

July 27, Monday — Cloudy, cool. Framing completed on the day centre, working on the kitchen. Everything was wet this morning. We had a thunderstorm on Sunday.

July 28, Tuesday — Warm, sunny. Framing is still going up. The morale is high. Phil came by today, signed some cheques and brought in the water sample analysis. Results say the water is high on iron. We are short four men according to our budget and manpower can't supply them for us. I have left a message for Paulette to call me—she has been away for a while—so I can inform her of the situation.

July 29, Wednesday — Warm and sunny. Still framing. The siding is being put up as well. Phil was here this morning. Allan and Chris were here late afternoon; signed some cheques. Talked with Paulette about work weeks being short. All is OK.

July 30, Thursday — Cloud, cool with sunny periods. Still framing and siding. Phil came around.

July 31, Friday — Pouring Rain continually. Looks like it will pour all day. Rained until about 1:30. Big meeting here today: Allan, Bud, and Robert Ball (from Wilson & Beck Insurance). 9:30–10:30 AM. Then a meeting with Ron Hoffart, Allan, Chris, Phil, and Bud. 11:00 AM–1:00 PM. Then Allan, Phil, Chris and Bud discussed things about 2:00. Allan left about 2:30. Guenther was here to discuss some things. The weather cleared about 1:30 or so, then the sun came out and rising steam made it smell like a sauna outside.

August 4, Tuesday — Cloudy, sunny, and warm. Monday was a holiday. Still working on framing and floor.

August 5, Wednesday — Cloudy, cool. Starting to frame auditorium area today. Bud phoned Ron Hoffart again today regarding the plans; he sure phones that office a lot and has to have changes made on the plans. It seems that a lot of walls don't seem to line up properly and before he goes ahead he has to have changes made. The engineers are away on holidays which makes it even more difficult

August 6, Thursday — Warm, sunny. Regular day. Walls still going up and sub-floors.

August 7, Friday — Warm, sunny. Backhoe here this morning; arrived 7:00, left 9:00. Volunteered (\$200).

Bought laminated beam from Victor Martinou. He delivered purchase \$135, volunteer \$65.

Chris signed some cheques; also he will be away till August 17th.

August 10, Monday — Cloudy, cool. Rained a little in the afternoon. Still doing the framing in the auditorium and kitchen area.

August 11, Tuesday — Sunny, warm. Hired two new people; now we are only two people short. Still doing framing, siding, sub-floor.

August 12, Wednesday — Cloudy, sunny and cool. The UI cheques were late last week and are going to be late this week so Randy and Dan left for the day to find a "real" job. The worker can call a UI office and if his cheque is in the mail Wednesday he will have it Friday.

August 13, Thursday — Rained all day. Very miserable because we have no roof on the building so it is wet and muddy for working conditions.

August 14, Friday — Cloudy, damp. The job is slipping behind (3 days now) because posts are not being delivered to us as promised. So we are working in other areas to make up the time. This coupled with rainy weather and no roof is not helping matters. However we are [blank].

August 17, Monday — Cloudy, a little sunny, damp. I received a call from a lady wanting to book the hall for a wedding in June 1988. I took her name and number and also gave her Phil's number because she required a more definite answer.



Backfilling the exterior of the foundation. Much work was done by hand rather than with machines.



Putting down the sub-floor on the pre-school area.



Framing the walls. Notice gravel for drain tiles.

District of Maple Ridge picked up our garbage today. Just a few days ago—it piled up so much—Bud finally had to put it in his truck and remove it himself, so today they didn't have much to remove.

The big beams finally arrived from Curtis Lumber. Two posts were put up today on the auditorium outside wall.

August 18, Tuesday — Sunny and warm. The posts and beams are going up today. The big one in the day room area; it took 13 men to move it. Scaffolding started yesterday in the auditorium area. It will be three stories high to assist in putting the beams up.

August 19, Wednesday — Sunny and warm; cloudy late afternoon. Scaffolding, beams, roof on storage area and miscellaneous work being done.

August 20, Thursday — Cloudy, cool; warm and sunny late afternoon. Allan Springman came out today and signed some cheques for me. Ron Hoffart was here today as well. He met with Bud.

Still building scaffolding, putting up siding, strapping, and miscellaneous.

August 21, Friday — Sunny, warm; hot afternoon. Chris came by and signed some cheques. We are still working on scaffolding, roofing, siding, etc. I took the UIC. cards in to log today. The park is very busy these hot summer days. There are a lot of boats on the water and a lot of people swimming.

August 24, Monday — Sunny and hot. Still working on roofing and the floor. We experienced a power failure at 3:00 PM. The power is out in the whole area. Power back on about an hour later.

August 25, Tuesday — Sunny, hot. Working on the two roofs and floors and miscellaneous details.

August 26, Wednesday — Sunny and hot. Finished doing the flat roofs—just some details left. Weather has been great.

August 27, Thursday — Sunny and hot. The beams we were waiting for finally arrived.

August 28, Friday — Hot and sunny. Working on the beams and siding. Chris was here. Allan was here. Brian and Paulette made an official visit. They said everything looked great.

August 31, Monday — Hot and sunny. The tar paper is being put on the outside walls. The top trim boards are being painted.

September 1, Tuesday — Hot and sunny. Unbearably hot in this trailer; it's cooler outside. Bud is drilling holes in the beams and I guess it is quite difficult to do.

September 2, Wednesday — Rained last night and this morning. Cleared but cloudy and cool. The roofers arrived this morning (Whonnock Roofers) and they are doing tar and gravel on the flat roofs starting with the daycare centre.

September 3, Thursday — Hot and sunny. The roof will be finished today; tar and gravel. Bud is drilling the beams and fitting the metal plates on.

September 4, Friday — Hot and sunny. Bud and his helpers are working on the girders—drilling holes and fitting plates on.

September 8, Tuesday — Hot and sunny. Monday was a holiday: Labour Day. Still working on girders, also moving them from inside the building (the day room) to outside the auditorium wall to fit them together. They are very big and heavy and the men have moved them by hand.

September 9, Wednesday — Hot and sunny. Still working on the girders; drilling holes, moving the beams outside and bolting them together. We have a volunteer worker helping out Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday (8, 9, 10) for 14 hours: Tom Konefal.

September 10, Thursday — Sunny. The weather has been great; no rain for days now. The girder is being constructed outside amongst dirt and gravel and if it rains before we are finished with the two girders it could be quite messy. We are a few weeks behind in workweeks and the CEC. can not supply us with needed manpower.

September 11, Friday — Cloudy, cold, a little foggy. The first girder is complete. The second girder is being constructed now.

September 14, Monday — Rainy, cloudy, cold. The electrical work is being started by Gunther Schultz.

September 15, Tuesday — Rainy, cloudy, cool. The plumber arrived today to start some plumber's work.

September 16, Wednesday — Rainy, cloudy, cool; sunny afternoon. The electrical and plumbing still being done. The girder is just about ready to put up.

September 17, Thursday — Foggy and cool; then sunny and warm. 9:00 AM. Electrician still working. Plumbers arrived to work as well. The girder is just about complete and ready to be put in place by the crane which will arrive Monday morning.

September 18, Friday — Warm and sunny. Worked on getting the girders completed. Then cleaned up the site for the Whonnock Days tour.

September 21, Monday — The crane was here early this morning to put the girders in place. All went well. Then the rafters were put up by the same crane. Supreme House Movers.

September 22, Tuesday — Warm, sunny. The girders and rafters are up, so now we can put the roof on and finish the wall facing the lake. That is what we are now working on. Hopefully we can get this done before the rain starts.

September 23, Wednesday — Warm, sunny. Still working on the roof and wall. The electrical is being worked on



Framing.



Wall sheathing.



Whonnock Roofing crew puts tar and gravel on the flat roof.

- and the plumbers are here again today.
- September 24, Thursday — Foggy, cloudy, warm. Working on the roof and one outside wall. Insulation being put up in one area.
- September 25, Friday — Foggy, cloudy, then clear, warm, sunny. Still working on the roof and insulation and the auditorium wall.
- September 28, Monday — Foggy, cloudy, then clear, cool and sunny. Started putting up scaffolding so we can put up the decking. Also still doing the auditorium wall and insulation.
- September 29, Tuesday — Warm and sunny. Started to put up the decking; electrical also being worked on.
- September 30, Wednesday — Warm and sunny. Working on the decking and electrical and plumbing.
- October 1, Thursday — Warm and sunny. Working on decking and outside wall. Jim Wiens dug the trenches for the electrical and water lines from the well.
- October 2, Friday — Sunny and warm. Worked on getting the well culvert installed and worked on the electrical line in trench.
- October 5, Monday — Sunny and warm. The weather has been really nice and holding out for us so far. Working on the roof insulation, filling in the trenches and electrical.
- October 6, Tuesday — Sunny and warm. Trench filling, putting up insulation on the roof, electrical and miscellaneous things.
- October 7, Wednesday — A little cooler; this morning no sun. Working on putting up insulation, filling up trenches, roofing, gable end completion and electrical. Windows arrived today.
- October 8, Thursday — Sunny, quite cool. Hot afternoon. Working on roof, outside (lakeside) wall. Electrical and plumber is here today.
- October 9, Friday — Sunny and cool; hot afternoon. Working on the roof and electrical.
- October 13, Tuesday — Monday was a holiday. Foggy, cold and damp; hotter in the afternoon. Started to shingle the roof today.
- October 14, Wednesday — Not quite as cold as yesterday, but cold just the same. Bud has everyone putting up shingles, finished this side today.
- October 15, Thursday — Cold in the morning, warmer in the afternoon. Put shingles on the roof all day; started on the other side of the roof.
- October 16, Friday — Cool, then warm and sunny. Still putting up shingles.
- October 19, Monday — Foggy and cool, then sunny and warm. The shingles should be finished today. Bud has everyone working on them.
- October 20, Tuesday — Cold in the morning, hot in the afternoon. Started to put up siding and finish up the roof cap. Also electrical, insulation, and windows.
- October 21, Wednesday — Cold morning, hot afternoon. Putting up siding, finishing up roof. Electrical, insulation and windows.
- October 22, Thursday — Cold morning, warm afternoon. Still putting up siding and insulation and finishing up the roof cap, gutter, and windows.
- October 23, Friday — Cold and a little wet, warm afternoon. Putting up siding and doing electrical.
- October 26, Monday — Cold and wet. The time changed back to standard and it is lighter in the morning now. We are working on siding and miscellaneous.
- October 27, Tuesday — Cool and sunny. Working on siding, insulation and miscellaneous work.
- October 28, Wednesday — Cool and sunny. Working on siding, insulation, electrical, painting.
- October 29, Thursday — Cool and sunny. Siding and insulation and painting windows.
- October 30, Friday — Cool and sunny. Siding, insulation and painting, start putting up doors.
- November 2, Monday — Raining and cold. Siding, insulation, poly, painting doors and windows, and hanging doors.
- November 3, Tuesday — Wet and cold. Siding, insulation, plumbing, hanging doors, and painting.
- November 4, Wednesday — Wet and cool. Siding, insulation, electrical, plumbing, dug the ground up around the well and put the pump in, but just to test right now.
- November 5, Thursday — Wet and cool; sunny afternoon. Siding, insulation, painting, plumbing. Started to do the skylight today. Backhoe is here to dig the septic and drain field.
- November 6, Friday — Wet, cool, and cloudy. We are doing miscellaneous inside work and also have a crew on the septic field.
- November 9, Monday — Wet, rainy, cold. There was a meeting about finances this morning with Bud, Allan, Chris and Phil. We are working on the septic and miscellaneous inside work.
- November 10, Tuesday — Wet, rainy, cold. Working on the septic and drain field.
- November 11, Wednesday — holiday.
- November 12, Thursday — Wet, rainy, cold. Working on the septic and drain field. Also finishing up the caretaker's suite.
- November 13, Friday — Raining, wet. Worked on the septic tank. Poured all morning, afternoon on and off.
- November 16, Monday — Wet, sunny. Making a road to get the cement truck to the septic tank.
- November 17, Tuesday — Wet; sunny now and then and cold. It froze last night. We are burning the pile of rub-



Drilling the well for the centre.



Curtis Lumber driver delivers material for the trusses for the main hall.



Trusses were made by hand on the ground. Drill holes (there were many) and plates had to match exactly. Crew is lining up the holes in a plate with the holes in a post.

bish we have accumulated and pouring concrete for the septic tank—often pumping out a lot of water.

November 18, Wednesday — Raining and cold. Burning the rubbish pile. Sub-contracts working on skylight in the pouring rain. Doing some siding and miscellaneous work.

November 19, Thursday — Sunny periods; not too cold. Burned brush. Filling in the septic site. Miscellaneous work.

November 20, Friday — Rainy periods; not too cold. Filling in the septic tank site, levelling the ground around the well site, and miscellaneous work.

November 23, Monday — Rainy all day. Painting, insulation, backfilling, trim boards around skyline, burning rubbish. Roofer was finishing off the flashing.

November 24, Tuesday — Poured rain all day. Painting, insulation, backfilling. Burned some rubbish. Lumber for the dance floor arrived today.

November 25, Wednesday — Weather better: no rain, some sunshine. Putting the dance floor in. Some painting and some miscellaneous roof work. The plumbers here today and a load of drywall arrived today.

November 26, Thursday — Dampy cool. Still working on the floor. It is about finished.

November 27, Friday — Damp and cool again today. Still working on the floor. The drywallers put the drywall up in the remainder of the building.

November 30, Monday — Damp and cool. Working on the floor. We have only eight UI workers now. Started putting trim in the caretaker's suite.

December 1, Tuesday — Raining and cold. Still working on the floor in the hall. Bud called BC Telephone to see

about having the phones put in and also cablevision at the same time.

December 2, Wednesday — Raining now and then. Still working on the floor and putting up trim. Also taking inside scaffolding down.

December 3, Thursday — Raining a little of and on. Not too bad out. Working on the floor, putting up trim, and taking scaffolding down. The fundraising dinner is tonight.

December 4, Friday — Wet and cool. The dinner was a success. We sold 75 tickets and cleared about \$6,000. The floor is completed now. Doing some painting and trim work.

December 7, Monday — Wet and cool. Installing cabinets in the caretaker's suite and doing trim work in the building. People are picking up application forms for the job of caretaker and I've had some enquiries regarding the daycare.

December 8, Tuesday — Wet and cold. Started to move the content of the trailer to the hall. Doing miscellaneous work, painting and cabinets.

December 9, Wednesday — Wet and cold. Moved the remaining content from the trailer to the hall. The trailer is ready to be moved out. Painting and miscellaneous work and cabinets.

December 10, Thursday — Wet and cold. Set up an office in the master bedroom of the caretaker's suite. Painting, miscellaneous, and cabinets.

December 11, Friday — Wet and muddy outside. This is our last day for now. Working on electrical, ceramic tiles, painting, and miscellaneous.

[End of Thelma Lemieux diary.]





Erecting the trusses for the skylight and rafters on main hall was a delicate job, but all went well. The rafters and the metal skylight on top had still to be added.



Crane putting up rafters.



Roofing with wood shingles. Today the Centre has a metal roof.



Allan Springman, chairman of the building committee, standing behind the unfinished building where work has come to an untimely stop due to a lack of funding for materials.

On 2 December 1987 Allan Springman, chairman of the Building Committee of the Whonnock Community Association, informed Mayor and Council of Maple Ridge that the building was \$67,000 worth of material short of completion. Of this, \$27,000 would be available through provincial and other sources but the remaining \$40,000 would have to come forward from the Municipality otherwise the construction would stop until funding would be made available. When no immediate funding was made available, work was stopped.

The Province of British Columbia had agreed to a request to increase the existing Lottery Fund grant. Austin Pelton and Norman Jacobsen indicated their support and an increase of \$20,050 was granted.

The District of Maple Ridge responded by making the budget for the addition of public washrooms and change rooms available to the Building Committee, on the condition that this extension be commenced promptly.

It was at this point that Maple Ridge Council decided, on recommendation of Parks and Recreation, to transfer the property of the old hall they held in trust for the people of Whonnock to the Whonnock Community Association "to sell the land and use the proceeds to complete the new hall located in Whonnock Lake Park." It would take some time to sell the land, but it served as a collateral for the Association to get a bank loan for its value.

Work resumed on April 11, 1988

1988

Hall boosted again: (Undated newspaper cutting)

Maple Ridge Community Credit Union has become the key to unlock the doors of Whonnock Lake Centre. Construction of the community facility in Whonnock was shut down December 11 after organizers ran short of funds.

But the credit union last week stepped in with \$2,000 to get the project rolling again, counting on their donation to start a flood of support from the rest of the business community. "We felt it was a worthwhile community project. There are a lot of our members living in the Whonnock area," said credit union manager Brian Elliott.

"We're hoping the rest of the community will get behind this project and we'll see them complete it this year." Project organizer Al Springman said he is counting on donations to help reopen the doors to the hall this February. But the group needs almost \$100,000 to get construction restarted and complete, Springman said.

Report from the building committee published in the Whonnock Community Association Newsletter of 15 May 1988: Hall construction has begun again with grants from the federal government (for labour), BC Lotteries, the Canadian Legion in Haney, Maple Ridge Credit Union as well as a number of individual contributors.

We have undertaken the construction of the washroom and change room facilities for Whonnock Lake Park (the municipality is paying for materials). There is also interest from the Rotary Club to build a walkway to the lake and a revived interest in the Canoe and Kayak Club's addition to the building. By the way, you are always welcome to tour the hall site, make a donation, check out a booking, or just look us over.

After a lengthy period of fundraising and construction, I have only two regrets. The first is that a number of individuals responded to our appeals for help but were never called upon. Because of the nature of the federal money we received we had a great deal of unskilled labour which our super superintendent transformed into skilled results! Our thanks for your intentions and if the need arises we may still call upon you.

The other major disappointment was the lack of individual and corporate cash donations. The Maple Ridge Credit Union gave \$2,000, Mr. and Mrs. Byrnes gave five hundred dollars each plus a memorial donation, a few other people gave a hundred dollars and some lesser amounts were gratefully received. Thank you; every dollar counts! To others, who intended to donate but didn't because they were never approached directly. To all of those people who are proud to be residents of east Maple Ridge and who feel that Whonnock Lake Centre is an asset to their community, their families and themselves; to these people we say: "It is not too late!" Your dollars will alleviate a construction shortfall of \$12,000. In the final analysis this is your facility and you should make a contribution. Consider it your investment in the future.

Respectfully submitted by Allan Springman

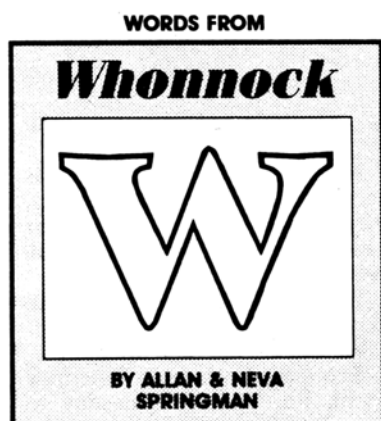
Aside from government and individual donations, 1988 was also the year that organizations stepped forward with funding for general or specific purposes to complete Whonnock Lake Centre. These organizations included:

Maple Ridge Community Foundation
Vancouver Foundation
Old Age Pensioners Branch 103 Whonnock
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 88
Kinsmen Club of Maple Ridge
Kiwanis Club of Golden Ears
Maple Ridge Lions Club
Loyal Protestant Association
Maple Ridge Community
Credit Union
Haney Rotary

1988 – 1989 executive

President: Phil Johnson
Vice President: Ken Smith
Secretary: Darlene Smith
Treasurer: May Gormley

Members at Large:
Jean Ruttan
Pim Lambert
Bud Popadiuk
Allan Springman
Chris Mellalieu
Dena Popadiuk
Linda Johnson
Larry DeTemple
Stan Durnion
Olive Leaf



From the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 30 May 1988

Phil Johnson gave a report on the Whonnock Lake Centre Opening Ceremony plans. In requesting \$1,500 in funds to spend on the day's events, he expects that the costs will be recovered by the dance being held in the evening. An opening ceremony with expectations of 200 people in attendance is planned for July 16th at 12:00 noon, with wine & cheese type goodies being served. Ken Smith moved that the association put forward \$1,500 for the day's events. Seconded by Chris Mellalieu. Motion carried.

It was moved by Allan Springman, and seconded by Phil Johnson that "The executive be empowered to borrow \$37,900 for the construction and equipping of the Whonnock Lake Centre." The intention is to repay the loan with funds generated from the sale of property from the Old Whonnock Memorial Hall, or from any other funds the executive designates. The funds are only to be borrowed under the full guarantee of the municipality of Maple Ridge. It will only be borrowed, if necessary, to complete construction and furnishing of the new centre. Motion carried.

Chris Mellalieu moved that Allan Springman be made an Honorary Lifetime Member of the Whonnock Community Association, in thanks and recognition for seeing to the completion of the Whonnock Lake Centre. Seconded by Ken Smith. Motion carried.

Phil Johnson thanked Chris Mellalieu for "hanging in there" as president for the past two years.

Jean Ruttan thanked Phil Johnson, as well as Chris and Allan for their hours of dedication and hard work, in obtaining funds and overseeing the completion of the hall. "No one can imagine the number of meetings and hours of work that these gentlemen put in on behalf of all of us in Whonnock," she said.

Words from Whonnock, 8 June 1988

Bare bulbs hung from the ceiling, because the small meeting room wasn't quite finished. And some of the people present sat on lawn chairs brought from home. But it didn't matter. The Whonnock Community Association was home!

Whonnock Lake Centre hosted its first Whonnock Community Association Annual General Meeting on May 30.

The hall, which began as a dream 12 or 13 years ago, is nearly finished. Given the struggles over the years, the triumphs and the setbacks, appropriate music for the official opening on July 16 might be The Impossible Dream!

Allan Springman was made an honorary lifetime member of the Whonnock Community Association "in thanks and recognition for seeing to the completion of the Whonnock Lake Centre." (Having been married to him for nearly 28 years, I know that the "persistence" the executive talked about is really sheer stubbornness ... but it sure helped get the job done!)

The present building committee of Springman, Mellalieu, Johnson and Smith will continue until completion of construction.

The official opening of Whonnock Lake Centre is slated for July 16. Phil Johnson, who is in charge of opening ceremonies, reports that there will be an opening ceremony at noon, with a dance in the evening.

16 July 1988 Grand Opening



Photo by Peter Knowliden

Bill Hartley, Gerry St. Germain and Norman Jacobsen supporting Olive Leaf at the ribbon cutting ceremony. For Olive Leaf, who had witnessed the glory and the demise of the old hall, this was a very special moment.

President Phil Johnson, scissors in hand, welcomes the guests to the opening ceremony and invites the dignitaries to come forward for the ribbon cutting ceremony. The scouts form a guard of honour.





In Appreciation
Allan Springman
For Dedication
To The
Whonnock Lake Centre
July 16, 1988

In Appreciation
Phil Johnson
For Dedication
To The
Whonnock Lake Centre
July 16, 1988



In Appreciation
Chris Mellalieu
For Dedication
To The
Whonnock Lake Centre
July 16, 1988

Drawings by Dale Sharpe

Words from Whonnock 20 July 1988

The sun shone and the politicians took credit.

Whonnock Lake Centre sparkled and the politicians gave credit—to the building superintendent Bud Popadiuk; the architect Ron Hoffart; the building committee of Allan Spingman, Phil Johnson, Chris Mellalieu and Ken Smith; and the people of Whonnock.

A couple hundred people applauded as Olive Leaf, longtime Whonnock resident and seniors' liaison for the Whonnock Community Association, cut the red ribbon officially opening the new community centre at Whonnock Lake.

MP Gerry St. Germain, MLA Norm Jacobsen and Maple Ridge Mayor Bill Hartley looked on proudly, each mindful of the part they had played in its construction.

There were so many cameras at the official opening that it looked like a Japanese tour group. Everyone wanted to record the event. In years to come, when daughters plan weddings there, or children plan 50th wedding celebrations for their parents, those said parents can whip out fading pictures of the opening, when the hall was new and they were younger. It was a wonderful afternoon, and the memories will be cherished along with the community centre.

Speeches were given, hands were shaken, and a few tears of pride were shed. The people of Whonnock are proud. And they should be!

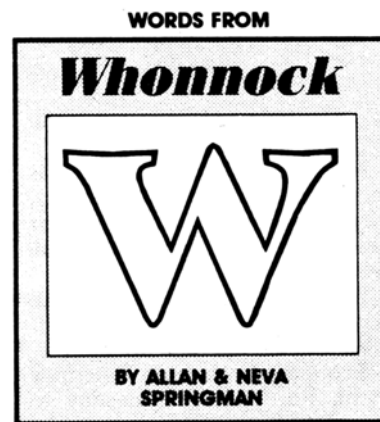
The sold-out dance Saturday evening proved that the hall is more than just another pretty face. Pretty it was—with fresh flowers on every table, donated by a Maple Ridge florist, and borrowed tables and chairs. (Don't forget we still need tables and chairs. Get out your cheque book while the excitement is still fresh.) Music by "Keats and the Common" kept everyone dancing and the air conditioning kept everyone cool.

Presentations at the dance included a commemorative plaque for Chris Mellalieu in recognition of his contribution toward the building of the hall, and pen-and-ink portraits by Whonnock artist Dale Sharpe, given to Allan Springman and Phil Johnson. The plaque and the portraits were repossessed before evening's end, and will hang in the hall, along with the commemorative plaque dedicated by MP St. Germain at the afternoon opening ceremonies.

Flowers were given to all three wives in recognition of the fact that they also played a part—those husbands weren't always the easiest to live with as they coped with construction and financing problems, and the community centre ate all their spare time.

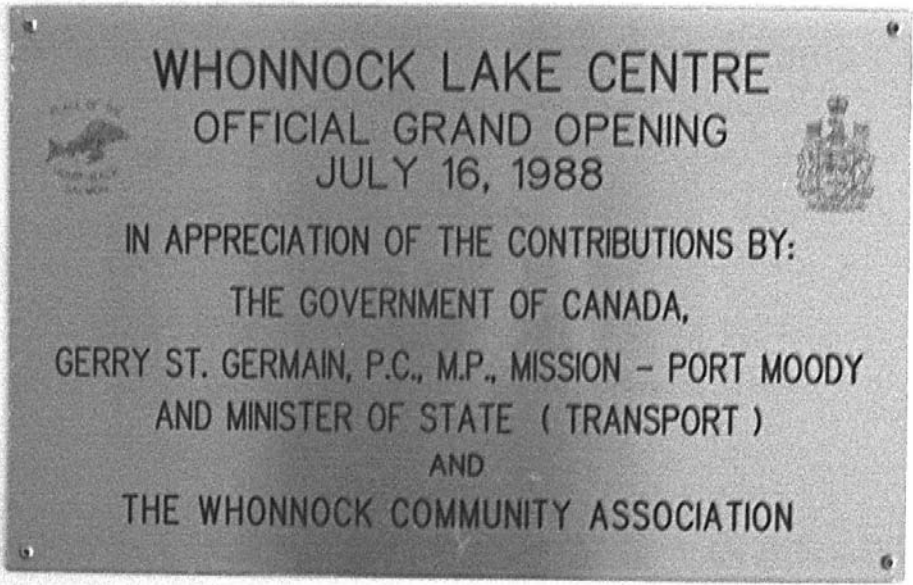
The dance was such a success that some may have had a rather scant "dinner." Apologies if such was the case; attendance and appetites exceeded expectations and dinner provisions.

The official opening was an affair to remember—and much credit goes to Phil Johnson and his wife Linda, Jean Ruttan, Dena Popadiuk and Sue Schulze, and to all the others who worked behind the scenes to make sure that everything would go smoothly.



Plaque

Norman Jacobsen helps Gerry St Germain, Minister of State, to unveil a commemorative plaque. Allan Springman in the background.



Birthday Cakes



Two birthday cakes

Bill Hartley, Norm Jacobsen and Gerry St. Germain supervise the cutting of the cake by Olive Leaf.

The cutting starts in earnest with the assistance of Jean Ruttan.



Speeches



Phil Johnson



Norm



Gerry St. Germain



Bill Hartley



Allan Springman

MLA Austin Pelton and Parks and Recreation Director Mike Murray had other obligations.

Volunteers and Donors

The Maple Ridge News, Wednesday, July 20, 1988

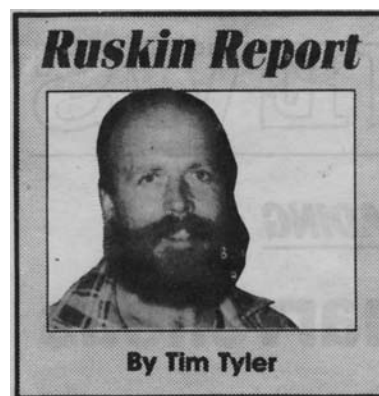
The heart of a community is often revealed in the buildings it erects; these structures represent spirit, strength, commitment, the symbolic manifestations of the soul of a place.

A place like Whonnock.

What was once just an idea on the shore of Whonnock Lake took substance on the weekend with the official opening of the Whonnock Lake Centre, a good-looking wood and glass edifice that is a monument to the people who volunteered time and effort to make their dream come true.

The hall represents a victory over personal and financial frustrations, over apathy and red tape, a battle fought not only by the Springmans and the Johnsons and the Mellalieux, but by the little people whose name do not appear on the plaque or in the newspaper: the people who sweated and strained while their lawns grew out of control on the weekends, the people who donated 10 bucks and maybe went without a case of beer, the unknown, unrecognized faces who constitute the community. We laud their efforts. They are an inspiration, an example. They can feel proud.

Now, about that warm beer at the dance!



Donations (receipt book)

6-Sep-85 Mrs. M. Barnett
 13-Sep-85 Mrs. L.F. Eden
 22-Sep-85 John and Mary Estok
 12-Dec-85 Mrs. M. Kearns
 12-Dec-85 Mr. Maurice Barnett
 2-Nov-87 Mike and Maggie Dougherty
 2-Nov-87 Jan De Zeeuw
 1-Jan-88 Lake Grain Nursery
 10-Jan-88 Pat Lobmeier
 10-Jan-88 M.I. Byrnes
 10-Jan-88 Brian Byrnes
 19-Jan-88 Dr. and Mrs. Munro
 19-Jan-88 Marjorie Stibbard
 19-Jan-88 Larry and Rosemary Parlee
 19-Jan-88 Robert and Violet O'Neil
 19-Jan-88 Dennis and Audrey Roberge
 19-Jan-88 Audrey Aicken
 19-Jan-88 Ivy Molnar
 19-Jan-88 Harry and Eva Hirst
 19-Jan-88 Gordon and Susan Dewhirst
 19-Jan-88 M.J. and L.R. Mellish
 31-Jan-88 Bob Isley

9-Feb-88 R. and A. Shaw
 9-Feb-88 John and Thelma Asley
 15-Feb-88 Louis Pfenniger
 15-Feb-88 Audrey Schmidt
 15-Feb-88 Louise Hader
 3-Apr-88 Sandy Fairclough
 30-May-88 Paul and Gloria Stanley
 26-Sep-88 Mr. and Mrs. D. Munro
 17-Oct-88 Lange's Landscaping
 12-Dec-88 Donna Wilding

Benefit Dinner 3 December 1987 (receipt book)

3-Nov-87 Classic Realty
 25-Nov-87 Iris Kirkwood
 25-Nov-87 Mike Davies
 25-Nov-87 Barry Reid
 25-Nov-87 A.W. Johnson
 25-Nov-87 Mike Murray
 25-Nov-87 Gary Fraipont
 25-Nov-87 Don Buchan
 25-Nov-87 The News
 25-Nov-87 Cedarland Forest Products
 30-Nov-87 Len Underdahl

30-Nov-87 Weeda Vandegaag
 30-Nov-87 Mike Kwasnica
 30-Nov-87 Willie McDonald
 30-Nov-87 Barry's Constructions
 30-Nov-87 Paul Unruh
 30-Nov-87 Classic Realty
 3-Dec-87 Paulette Seymour
 3-Dec-87 Tony and Donna Wanstall
 3-Dec-87 The Canine Connection
 3-Dec-87 Prestige Glass
 3-Dec-87 Popadiuk & Jensen
 3-Dec-87 Tri-Tel Realty
 3-Dec-87 Clarke's Drywall
 7-Dec-87 R. Mussallem
 7-Dec-87 Laurie Brooks
 7-Dec-87 Kenneth and Darlene Smith
 7-Dec-87 David Boyce
 7-Dec-87 Garibaldi Auto Service Ltd.
 7-Dec-87 Adanac Pattern Shop Ltd.
 7-Dec-87 Haney Town Pump
 7-Dec-87 Argo Marine Builders
 7-Dec-87 Carr Sand & Gravel
 7-Dec-87 Phil Johnson
 7-Dec-87 Bowers Automotive
 7-Dec-87 Realty World Brookside
 19-Jan-88 Martin Reynolds
 21-Jan-88 Maple Ridge Community
 Credit Union



Whonnock Community Association

P.O. Box 134, Whonnock, B.C. V2X 8X8

I believe strongly in the need for a community facility in the East side of Maple Ridge.

It is my intention to help in the construction of the facility by volunteering 40 hours of my time as a installing a heating system

I understand that a tax receipt for the value of my time will be issued.

Yours truly,

Whonnock Heating + Sheet Metal

*(Owner) Bob Hayek
462-9875*

Aside from Bob Hayek the following expressed their intention to help in the construction by volunteering their time and expertise.

- Thomas Doelker, European Hardware, 40 hours of furniture manufacturing;
- Steve Abbott, Maranatha Home Services, 40 hours as electrician;
- Bob Timmins, 40 hours as millwright;
- Doug Woods, 20 hours as backhoe operator;
- Ilona Shaw, 40 hours as general help or bookkeeper;
- Jean Ruttan, 50 hours as general helper and 50 hours of her husband's time;
- Frances Jones, 40 hours as general labourer;
- Romana Frew, 10 hours as general labourer;
- David Norman, 8 hours as general labourer;
- Stan Lovatt, 40 hours as helper;
- Lorne Smith, as helper, labourer;
- Terry Haymond, some hours as labourer;
- J.O. Clements, 40 + hours as electrician Class B.
- Richard Nelson, 8 hours as welder

Many were the suppliers and individuals who donated their services and time to the Whonnock Community Association and not all found their way to the following numbered list headed: VOLUNTEERS.

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Glenn Barnes | 35. Ron Kowolska (Cass Floors) |
| 2. Doug Woods | 36. Ernie Daykin (Windsor Plywood) |
| 3. Ken Smith | 37. Rick Isherwood (H&R Concrete) |
| 4. Bill Tupper (Unicorn Trucking) | 38. Maggie Dougherty |
| 5. Rod Marquet | 39. Mike Davies (Parks and Rec.) |
| 6. Wayne McIntosh | 40. Mike Murray (Parks and Rec.) |
| 7. Ron Kanak | 41. Olive Leaf |
| 8. Norm Groman | 42. Maple Ridge Credit Union |
| 9. Rob Kearns | 43. Tom ? (Pineridge) |
| 10. Jim Wiens | 44. Bob Sterling |
| 11. Tom Konefall | 45. Doug Burrage [duplicate !] |
| 12. Bob Eisley | 46. Ron Kask (Curtis Lumber) |
| 13. Doug Burrage | 47. John Logan (Excavator) |
| 14. Kevin Evancic | 48. Francis Janes |
| 15. Steve Abbott | 49. Jean Ruttan |
| 16. Bob Hayeck | 50. Austin Pelton |
| 17. Bill Villiers (Bill's Backhoe) | 51. Norm Jacobsen |
| 18. DMS Plumbig | 52. Gerry St. Germain |
| 19. Kerry Federer | 53. Bill Hartley |
| 20. Franz Prokop | 54. Jim Drew (Shelter Industries) |
| 21. Mike Sayers - Andrew Sheret | 55. Bob Ball (insurance) |
| 22. Martin Reynolds | 56. Clark Blanchard |
| 23. Ron Hoffart | 57. Victor Martineau |
| 24. Brian Downey | 58. Chris Mellalieu |
| 25. Paulette Seymour | 59. Phil Johnson |
| 26. Vivian Jervis | 60. Allan Springman |
| 27. Kelly (Tower Paint) | 61. Bud Popadiuk |
| 28. Patrick Fan | 62. Mae Gormley |
| 29. Clayton Gagnion (Whonnock Roofing) | 63. Dave Jensen |
| 30. Whonnock Lumber | |
| 31. Gunther Schulze (GWS Electric) | |
| 32. John Page (Whonnock Feed) | |
| 33. Bob Johnston (Johnston Poleline) | |
| 34. Charlie Chow | |

This list was used for invitations to the opening of the Centre and the following dance. Added are without numbering the following:

Maple Ridge Council (all); Legion President and Dick Lyster (?); News; Times; Former Association members, Present Association members.

19 July 1998 The Centre's 10th Anniversary

Many old-timers turned up to celebrate the Centre's 10th anniversary. Highlight was the new logo of the Whonnock Community Association, designed by Brenda Guild Gillespie. Carved in cedar, it has found a prominent place on the front wall of the centre.



Mayor Durksen speaks to the celebrants. Phil Johnson is master of ceremonies.



Fred Braches talks about the past as artist Brenda Guild Gillespie listens with her creation in the background.



WHONNOCK LAKE CENTRE

Opened on 16 July 1988

Built by the community of Whonnock
motivated in particular by the dedication of
Allan Springman and Phil Johnson.

We also acknowledge with gratitude
the contributions in many ways
from countless other Whonnockians
and individuals and businesses
from Maple Ridge and beyond,
as well as support from:

Government of Canada

B.C. Lottery Fund

District of Maple Ridge

Maple Ridge Community Foundation

Vancouver Foundation

Old Age Pensioners Branch 103 Whonnock

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 88

Kinsmen Club of Maple Ridge

Kiwanis Club of Golden Ears

Maple Ridge Lions Club

Loyal Protestant Association

Maple Ridge Community Credit Union

Haney Rotary

Architect: Ron Hoffart

General Contractor: Bud Popadiuk

Whonnock Community Association

MORE WHONNOCK NOTES

1. *Transcripts from the Fraser Valley Record (1908-1912)*
News about Whonnock in the Mission newspaper
2. *Cemeteries in Whonnock*
The history of Whonnock's cemeteries
—includes cemetery records and transcriptions of the grave markers
3. *The Trondheim Congregation*
Our Norwegian settlers—minutes of the Lutheran Church in Whonnock
4. *Through the Eyes of Brian and other Friends*
Interviews, notes, and stories dating back to 1913
5. *Whonnock 1897 —John Williamson's Diary*
One of the oldest records of daily life in Whonnock
6. *Ferguson's Landing: George Godwin's Whonnock*
A look at George Godwin's novel *The Eternal Forest*
7. *Robert Robertson and Tselatsetenate*
Whonnock's Scottish first settler and his family
8. *A Name Index of the Whonnock Notes Series No. 1–7*
Compiled by Eleanore Dempster
9. *A Name Index of the Whonnock Community Association
Historical Project Summer 1985 Records*
Compiled by Eleanore Dempster
10. *The Family of Catherine & Edward Julius Muench*
Catherine was the sister of the wife of Robert Robertson
11. *It Was a Wonderful Life, Brian and Isabel Byrnes*
Brian and Isabel gave all to Whonnock
12. *Whonnock's Post Office*
A history of the Whonnock post office, postmasters and assistants
13. *John Williamson's Diary Revisited*
Now the complete text of a diary kept in Whonnock in 1986 and 1897
14. *The Case of Private Cromarty, a Soldier from Whonnock*
The story of a mixed identity