



Families of Canadian geese recently shared the waters at Whonnock Lake with paddlers. Increased numbers of water fowl at the lake could have contributed to high E. coli levels in July. (The News files)

# Whonnock Lake beach could close again

Another closure might arrive before summer ends

Colleen Flanagan  
cflanagan@mapleridgenews.com

City of Maple Ridge is warning that hot, dry weather in the coming weeks could result in another closure of Whonnock Lake Park.

The beach and dock were closed to the public for 14 days at the beginning of July because of high E. coli counts, only opening again July 16 when testing showed that E. coli levels had returned to the safe ranges on two consecutive tests.

High E. coli levels at the lake are typical when there are hot temperatures and low rainfall, explained the city's director of parks and facilities, Valoree Richmond.

Water is tested weekly at the lake and the beach area will be closed if samples indicate E. coli levels are outside the safe ranges. The city does not treat the lake water.

Rainfall and low numbers of waterfowl also help to keep E. coli levels down, added Richmond. Although, she empha-

sized, they are not interfering with wildlife at the park.

People have been flocking to the popular recreation site all summer long. In July, there were approximately 10,000 vehicle visits – despite the two-week closure.

Numbers rebounded to normal levels when the beach re-opened in the middle of the month, said Richmond.

The August long weekend saw 322 car visits to the park on July 31, there was 457 on Aug. 1, and 681 on Aug. 2.

Richmond has increased the frequency of garbage pickup and washroom cleaning within the park to reflect the escalating usage and, she added, there has also been regular daily inspections.

A recent fire ban by the Maple Ridge fire department has been, for the most part, complied with, Richmond said.

"The use of propane barbeques is allowed and we have

not seen any significant cases where the fire ban is being breached. People understand that the stretch of dry weather has elevated the fire risk and people have been very helpful in reducing the risk of a human caused fire," she noted, adding the fire department has increased its visibility with regular patrols.

Maple Ridge residents recently had their say about proposed improvements to Whonnock Lake Park.

The city received around 90 comment forms regarding the proposed locations for new washrooms, showers, and a permanent caretaker residence at the park.

"The feedback has been thoughtful and reflects the customer experience information we were hoping for," said Richmond, thanking those who shared their views.

"We will share a summary of the feedback when the report moves forward."



Richmond

We're ready for you!

 **CONTINUINGed**  
MAPLE RIDGE & PITT MEADOWS

 **Riverside Centre**  
School District No. 42

CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR SEPTEMBER 2021.

See our course offerings at <https://ce.sd42.ca/courseselection/>  
You can register now with our online form or come to drop-in registration starting August 24 at 11:00AM.

Continuing Education at Riverside Centre will continue to follow Provincial Health guidelines as they are updated throughout the summer by the Ministry of Education.



September Registration is now OPEN

Have a question? Email: [ce@sd42.ca](mailto:ce@sd42.ca)

T 604-466-6555 F 604-463-5437

20575 Thorne Avenue, Maple Ridge, BC V2X 9A6

2021-2022 Dance Season Registration

Book your registration appointment online at:  
[fabulousfeet.ca/registration](https://fabulousfeet.ca/registration)

We have classes for all ages, recreation and competitive

Jazz – Tap – Ballet – Acrobatics – Hip Hop – Lyrical  
Stage – Creative Dance – Parent & Tot  
Adult Classes in Tap – Stage – Hip Hop – Jazz – Lyrical

Where can your feet take you? To the place that loves to dance!

#3-22826 Dewdney Trunk Rd  
**604-467-9846**  
[www.fabulousfeet.ca](https://www.fabulousfeet.ca) | [fabulousfeet@telus.net](mailto:fabulousfeet@telus.net)

 **FABULOUS FEET**  
SCHOOL OF DANCE

 **A-LIST**  
1st PLACE  
THE NEWS 2018

Director, Linda Carter  
Member C.D.T.A.



