

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Maple Ridge's Rock the Block Pilot Aims to Bring Together Neighbourhoods**

**Maple Ridge, B.C.** The City of Maple Ridge is inviting neighbours in Hammond, Albion and Haney to come together this summer with music, games, movies and more through its pilot Rock the Block program.

Intended to build stronger neighbourhoods, Rock the Block kicks off this Friday, July 7 at Robertson Park and continues August 4 at Hammond Pool and Stadium and Sept. 1 at Maple Ridge Museum and Archives and Jim Hadgkiss Park. Each event runs 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. and is followed by a Movies in the Park screening at sunset.

"We encourage residents in Hammond, Albion and Haney to join in these fun events, close to home, meet their neighbours and connect with their community," Mayor Dan Ruimy said. "Nurturing connected and vibrant neighbourhoods is a key priority for the City, and Rock the Block is just one of many opportunities available for Maple Ridge residents to get out and enjoy our beautiful City this summer."

Those attending Rock the Block can expect music, games, and other activities for families and people of all ages. The locations have limited parking, as they are geared toward residents within walking or cycling distance.

Participants can stick around afterward to enjoy one of this summer's five Movies in the Park, which feature family-friendly movies shown on a large portable outdoor screen. The films start around 9 p.m. when the sun goes down – bring a blanket or lawn chair and your favourite movie snacks to enjoy under the stars. Movies in the Park also take place in Memorial Peace Park on July 29 and August 19.

Events will take place rain or shine unless a thunderstorm warning is in effect, in which case they will be cancelled for safety reasons. Robertson Street at 104 Avenue will be closed at 4:00 pm on July 7 for the duration of the event.

### ***Hi Neighbour Connects the Community***

Both Rock the Block and Movies in the Park are part of Maple Ridge's *Hi Neighbour* initiative, which aims to connect residents, promote neighbourhood safety and create a sense of belonging. *Hi Neighbour* also includes Maple Ridge Fire Department's popular Hot Summer Night program. On Wednesday evenings in July and August, firefighters visit community neighbourhoods after 6:00 p.m., spraying hoses to cool off the kids and sharing information on summer fire safety. Visit [mapleridge.ca/434](https://mapleridge.ca/434) for details.

### **Share Your Feedback and Request a location**

Residents are invited to share feedback on the pilot Rock the Block series and request locations in their neighbourhood for next year at [mapleridge.ca/neighbour](https://mapleridge.ca/neighbour)

The feedback will be used to determine plans for next year. For more information about all the City events, go to [mapleridge.ca/2359](https://mapleridge.ca/2359).