

# Spreading holiday joy

**L**iv Butow has seen a lot of different kinds of Christmas in her day. From growing up in Norway where the Christmas season lasted a month, to the 12 years she spent in South Africa, where the Christmas candles would melt in the hot weather, she has seen the whole spectrum.

"I love South Africa, but Christmas in South Africa is just not the same," she said.

Butow has spent the past 4½ years on the Peninsula, where she's now working to bring some of the European Christmas traditions she grew up with to the community.

As festival director for this weekend's Christmas on the Peninsula, Butow's aim has been to incorporate elements of holidays she fondly remembers growing up in Norway and Germany.

In Norway, town merchants would spend days decorating their stores leading up to a big holiday kick-off celebration, generally a month before Christmas.

The celebration would include a torch-lit parade, choirs and a declaration by the mayor that the Christmas season was officially open, followed by the lighting of the Christmas tree.

In Germany, Butow recalls Christ Kindl markets, with vendors in beautifully decorated booths who sold handmade decorations, roasted nuts and candy.

Miramar Plaza outside the White Rock Community Centre will be the epicentre of this weekend's festivities, with the Christmas tree lighting ceremony and other activities taking place there. The Christmas market will be nearby at the White Rock Community Centre, and many other celebrations – including bands, choirs, and Christmas movies – will be held in other areas around town.

In addition to the extra Christmas spirit Butow hopes the Nov. 28 event will bring to the Peninsula, she thinks it will help build a stronger sense of community.

"I would love to see the community gather to hear Christmas stories, enjoy each other's company and have fun together," she said.

In keeping with the theme of a European Christmas, Butow is sharing a recipe for Kranse Kake – or Wreath Cake – which is a favourite in her family over the holiday season.

## Melissa Smalley local flavours



### Kranse Kake

#### Ingredients:

250 grams blanched almonds  
250 grams unblanched almonds  
450 grams icing sugar  
4 egg whites (slightly beaten)

1 1/2 tsp. almond extract  
4 drops bitter almond oil

Icing:  
200 grams icing sugar  
1 egg white  
1 tbsp. vinegar

#### Instructions:

Grind (not too long) and mix almonds and icing sugar. Add egg whites, almond extract and oil and mix until firm. Put dough in tin foil and put in cold oven. Set oven to 100 degrees celsius and let packet stay in for one hour. Cool off and leave until the next day. Grease cake rings, preheat oven to 200 degrees celsius. Roll out dough to the width of fourth finger with flour. Bake for eight to 10 minutes, remove and cool.

For icing, make 30 minutes before use. Mix all ingredients, zig zag over cookies.



## All welcome for Christmas

#### Editor:

It's getting near that time again – the commercial extravaganza known as Christmas, or "The Holidays!"

However, several citizens in this community are working hard to celebrate an old-fashioned Christmas this year.

It is called "Christmas on the Peninsula" and will be celebrated on Nov. 28 at various venues in White Rock, especially at Miramar Village Plaza.

All are invited.

Here you will find Christmas of old – the season of Dickens and many European countries.

There will be roast chestnuts and spiced cider, Christmas trees and lights, a parade and music.

It will be "Merry Christmas," not "Happy Holidays."

Strangely, some years ago, our government decided that our age-old celebration of Christian Christmas might offend some of our new Canadians of different faiths.

I have yet to meet such a person who does not enjoy our Christmas.

Do we not all enjoy Indian Diwali? Or Chinese New Year?

Then why should Christmas be downplayed?

We are a Christian country and we are celebrating the birth of our Christian Saviour and the goodwill that is the essence of this time of year.

No one is forced to take part.

We are a richly multicultural nation, and all are welcome to share all celebrations.

So, Merry Christmas to all in this approaching joyful season.

And God rest ye merry gentlemen – and ladies too!

*Barbara Willumsen, White Rock*