



Storyteller – and PAN reporter – Alex Browne is appreciated at one of many Christmas on the Peninsula events. *Boaz Joseph photo*

Yuletide community effort rewards

Editor:

Re: Birth of a Christmas Festival, Nov. 27.

I attended the Nov. 28 Christmas on the Peninsula celebration held at White Rock's new community centre and other city venues, and was most impressed with the performance and layout of the event.

The place was festive, the markets displayed tastefully

and the performing choirs and choral groups were superb. It felt like a return to the true meaning of Christmas.

It is obvious a great deal of effort had gone into planning the event. I congratulate sponsors, volunteers and performers for this happy neighbourhood occasion.

Kay Koop, White Rock

• editorial •

Home for the holidays

At this time of year even the simple comforts – a glass of eggnog, fresh baking and crackling fires, to name a few – remind us there is nothing like spending the holidays at home.

And for those who call the Peninsula home, there is no shortage of Christmas spirit.

Residents can look forward to entertainments such as the annual White Rock Players Club pantomimes at the Coast Capital Playhouse, but they can also explore the spiritual side of the holiday at St. Mark's Journey of Christmas, an outdoor walk-through display that allows us to reflect on the biblical story of the birth of Jesus.

There are plenty of joyful sounds to be heard, too – South Surrey/White Rock is home to so many talented musicians, it's never hard to find a Christmas concert or performance.

For the first time this year, local festivities were launched by a special celebration – Christmas on the Peninsula – which brought together many area churches and community groups, treating locals to Christmas stories and films, a holiday market and choir music.

For shoppers looking to find the perfect presents for those on their lists, craft fairs – including the annual one at White Rock Museum and Archives – offer unique, and often handmade gifts. If that's not enough to evoke Christmas cheer, local residents who take pride in decorating their houses in seasonal theme are sure to do the job. Not only do they go to almost unimaginable lengths to celebrate the holiday with lights and displays, many use their spectacles as a way to raise money for charity.

In fact, the Peninsula in general is a very generous community, as proven annually by the amount of contributions to the Peace Arch News Christmas Fund.

This value of giving is passed onto younger generations, with a number of local schools – elementary and secondary alike – collecting winter clothing, food and monetary donations. They prove everyone can make a difference, no matter their age.

The Peninsula is a great backdrop to any family's Christmas, with the business, arts and residential communities all pitching in to make each year's celebration memorable – and a comforting reminder of what the season is all about.

For those who live here: take some justifiable pride in your community. For those who are returning to the area for the holidays: welcome home.