



Brian Giebelhaus photo

Victorian carolers Brian Walks, Alan Philips, Shirley Holt and Judy Affolter are ready to do Christmas in song and in style.

Day of celebrations launches Christmas season with European flair

Birth of a Christmas festival

Alex Browne
Staff Reporter

It's Christmas on the Peninsula – and the celebration starts tomorrow (Saturday, Nov. 28).

Local businesses, churches and more than 20 community groups will be helping to get the community in the spirit with Christmas on the Peninsula – a day-long festival starting with a 9 a.m. traditional Breakfast in Bethlehem at First United Church, all the way to a 6 p.m. Carols By Candlelight sing-along with Saronā Mynhardt and the White Rock Children's Choir at St. John's Presbyterian Church.

Along the way, festivities will include a café and charity fair at Star of the Sea, film

screenings, a Christmas Market and a children's zone at White Rock Community Centre, seasonal readings of stories and poetry by White Rock Mayor Catherine Ferguson – and this reporter – at Coffee With Attitude at Five Corners, a performance by the Sweet Adelines at Coast Capital Playhouse, instrumental entertainment at Small Ritual Coffee House, main stage entertainers at the Miramar community centre, a children-friendly candlelight procession with a donkey and a mini-



“I'd love to see the whole of Johnston Road decorated with lights...”

Liv Butow

horse around the Hillcrest Centre and Miramar Village block, and ending with a performance by the Salvation Army Band and formal Christmas tree lighting at Miramar Plaza.

The event marks not only the beginning of this Christmas season, but what organizer and driving force Liv Butow envisions as an annual festival that will make December as joyful and community-involving as White Rock's summertime Spirit of the Sea Festival.

“I grew up in Norway, in the little village of

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