

Annual event slated for Nov. 24 to be full of festive fun

Christmas spirit coming to the Peninsula

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Staff Reporter

The spirit of the holiday season returns to the White Rock and South Surrey community this Saturday (Nov. 24) as Christmas on the Peninsula enters its fourth year with another day-long festival of family friendly events.

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From First United Church's popular Breakfast in Bethlehem - from 8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - to late afternoon and early evening events such

as a mini Christmas Parade led by a Christmas band and donkey (4 p.m.), the Salvation Army Jubilee Brass (from 4:15 p.m.), the Christmas Tree Lighting at Miramar Village Plaza with Mayor Wayne Baldwin and the Kent Street Choristers (4:30 p.m.) and the Carols By Candlelight sing-a-long at St. John's Presbyterian Church with the White Rock Children's Choir (5:15 to 6:15 p.m.) it's a full schedule of fun activities and entertainment aimed at recreating the atmosphere of the traditional start of Christmas festivities in European villages.

It's an atmosphere well-known to Christmas on the Peninsula founder and chair Liv Butow, who grew up in the village of Moss, south of Oslo in Norway.

She remembers that there the official launch of Christmas - at the end of November or beginning of December - was a chance for people to walk around town, meet with neighbours, admire the ingenuity of household and business decorations, enjoy seasonal goodies and ultimately gather in the village square for the lighting of the tree.

And she says that walking around the uptown White Rock area - where businesses, churches



and community organizations have planned a multitude of events - is the key to fully experiencing the appeal of Christmas on the Peninsula.

"I like the community feeling of walking place to place, meeting people and perhaps having some hot apple cider or something," she said.

"While we have the events at the White Rock Community Centre, of course, there are so many different things happening throughout the uptown area that we don't have the space for them," she said.

In addition to the Breakfast in Bethlehem - featuring a pancake breakfast, with a petting zoo

File photos
Above, carolers don festive clothes to serenade passersby. Left, candlelight provides a warm atmosphere at a sing-a-long at a previous Christmas on the Peninsula event.

and a pageant with costumed performers helping to recreate the sights and sounds of the days of the Nativity - there are an abundance of other events throughout the day along the Johnston Road corridor from Five Corners to Miramar Village designed to bring on a Christmas frame of mind.

At WorldServe Thrift Store (1401 Johnston Rd.) there will be a display of Christmas trees from around the world (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.), while during the same hours, The Living Room Store (1233 Johnston Rd.) will offer a collection of Nativity scenes, and Star of the Sea Centre (15262 Pacific Ave.) will provide a