

PHOTOS: White Rock Christmas festival 'so much more' than a market

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By Tracy Holmes

The 17th Christmas on the Peninsula festival was held Nov. 22, 2025 in Uptown White Rock, and included everything from a parade and a market to food trucks, carollers and a tree lighting. (Perry Aasman/Contributed to Peace Arch News)

Inclement weather on Saturday (Nov. 22) didn't dampen spirits at this year's Christmas on the Peninsula festival.

"It was great," festival founder Liv Butow said Tuesday (Nov. 25).

"Actually I've got quite a few people telling us it was really the best market they've been to, because of, you know, all the different things we do. It's not just a Christmas market, it's so much more than that."

Launched in 2009, the event has become a [much-anticipated Semiahmoo Peninsula holiday tradition](#), featuring everything from a parade and a Charles Dickens-style market to food trucks, carollers in Victorian attire, and a tree lighting.

New to the lineup this year were the Peace Arch Chorus and the Celtic Ensemble; the White Rock Business Improvement Association's Shopping Crawl; and NightShift Ministries' Taste of Heaven food truck.

Butow described the turnout as similar to previous years – a "good crowd" – and the gloomy, sometimes damp, weather as "typical" for the season.

Despite changes that included having to hold the festival a week earlier than usual and in less space than usual, Butow said the festival was well-received.

"I'm very happy, the people were happy – that's the most important thing," she said.

"Everybody that came seemed to really enjoy themselves."

Butow noted the nativity scene that has historically remained up inside the White Rock Community Centre till the first Saturday of the new year had to be dismantled immediately following the festival.

She expects to learn more about potential impacts to the festival's future on Monday (Dec. 1), when she'll plead the Christmas on the Peninsula Society's case to continue receiving a lower venue-rental charge for use of the community centre for the event.