

# Spirits high at annual holiday festival

Inclement weather may have put a damper on attendance at this year's Christmas on the Peninsula event, but spirits were high nonetheless.

"Even though the weather was not to our advantage, so the number was a bit down, the visitors were really happy with the event," event organizer Liv Butow told *Peace Arch News* by email.

"All in all, a happy day with carollers and organizing team dressed in Victorian clothing welcoming the advent season."

The annual event, in its eighth year, was held last Saturday (Nov. 26) in and around uptown White Rock, and featured events including a Christmas market, a parade, children's crafts, Breakfast in Bethlehem, carol singing and behind-the-scenes tours of the Coast Capital Playhouse.

Butow said White Rock Players Club officials reported a record number of visitors; the market was packed with vendors; and the parade was one-third bigger than last year, with new entries including a horse-drawn carriage from Stanley Park.

Main stage performances – including Ben Dunnill, Luna Nova and Breath of Heaven, Doreen Best, Momentum and the Langley Ukulele Intermediate Ensemble – drew a healthy crowd, she added, noting seating overflowed into the concession area.

The day ended with White Rock Mayor Wayne Baldwin lighting up the Christmas tree, a performance by the Stella Maris Concert Choir and a candlelight sing-along with the White Rock Children's Choir.

– Tracy Holmes





The eighth annual Christmas on the Peninsula Festival was held Nov. 26 and featured performers in Victorian-era garb, carol-singing and – despite less-than-ideal weather – a parade.