

November 2024

The Yarrow Newsletter

Brought to you by The Yarrow Volunteer Society



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yarrowcommunity.com



Yarrow Community Happenings

The Yarrow Newsletter is published 4 times annually (Feb, May, Sept & Dec)

Photo: Dennis Peters

Send Feedback/Suggestions to:
Carol Bell 604-823-6324
carolb02@telus.net
Deadline for next issue
February 10, 2025

View past issues at our website.
yarrowcommunity.com



Upcoming Events

Friday Market Nov 29
Country Xmas Market Nov 30
Tree Lighting Nov 30
Santa Breakfast Dec 7

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Christmas is a-coming

and Yarrow has lots of celebrating lined up. We've got back-to-back shopping/visiting/experience events at the community centre at the end of this month. Yarrow's famed Farmer's Market is the 29th from 5-8pm. Many friends you know from the summer markets will be there with some new additions. **Pop-Up Christmas Market Page 8.**

The Volunteer Society's Country Christmas Market is Saturday November 30th 9am to 4pm. Be sure to put your name in for the door prize draw and grab some Yarrow swag for the special folks on your list. The Kitchen Crew who cook our suppers will be hosting the concession. We don't get a chance to greet the folks who attend the suppers so do say hi to us and grab a bowl of chili for lunch. **Yarrow Country Christmas Page 8..**

That very night is our 6th annual tree lighting at Pioneer Park. It was a tiny festival that grew into a well-loved tradition very fast. The committee, Churches and businesses have been busy to make it better than ever. Donations of non-perishables will be collected for the Salvation Army Food Bank. We thank United Way for helping to fund this event again this year. **Yarrow Lights Page 16.**

Saturday December 7th make sure you bring the kiddos to the hall to meet a **Very Important Person..** We'll have crafts to make, cookies to decorate and pancakes to eat. **Breakfast With Santa Page 5.**

The Christmas issue always has a theme. It's neat to dig into the background of our traditions. This time it's poinsettias. Does anybody actually pronounce that second "t"? I vaguely recall hearing that they are native to Mexico but knew little else until the Google machine supplied some details. **Poinsettia Love Page 4.**

At our recent board meeting it was mentioned that the newsletter needs more stories. So I wrote a bit about what Christmas was like when I was a child. It was kind of shocking to write down memories and realize just how much norms have changed in just one lifetime. **Christmas A Lifetime Ago Page 14.**



Yarrow Volunteer Society - fosters community spirit by organizing Yarrow Days, Christmas Light Festival, Breakfast With Santa, Community Suppers etc. and publishes this swell newsletter
Yarrow Ratepayers Association - built, paid for and operates the Yarrow Community Centre
Chair: Sally Lum 604-823-0257 sallylum@shaw.ca
Vice Chair: Everett Worth 604-823-6017 eneworth@hotmail.com

YARROW COMMUNITY SCHOOL



4595 Wilson Road

Facility Rentals - our spaces are available for rent evenings and weekends throughout most of the school year. Please call coordinator Sally Lum at 823-0257 for more information on the following programs or to inquire about facility rentals.

Licensed Childcare Programs - As a temporary measure we have made the difficult decision to close the waitlists for our Group Childcare and Out of School care programs. We will make registration packages available again in June 2025. Sorry for any inconvenience. We hope this will allow us to move through the existing, lengthy waitlist file.

Family Place - Is a free, drop-in program for parents/caregivers and tots that meets in the multi-purpose room Tuesday mornings. Feel free to stop in on a Tuesday and meet some neighbours for a cup of coffee and some playtime for the little ones 9am-10:30am.

Seniors & Students Eating Together - **If this sounds like fun to you please join us on the first Wednesday of the month 12 noon for lunch, reading and fun board games with the students. Please call the school to rsvp 604-823-4408. * please note the Dec. lunch will take place on Wed. Dec. 11th**

All Sports - Saturday mornings, January 11- February 15th. 9:30-10:30 Girls and Boys grades 3 - 5 are invited to join Josh to come and play in the gym... floor hockey, 4 corner soccer, basketball. Lots of fun - only \$25 for 6 sessions. Forms available at the school or call Sally for more info.

Babysitter Course - Registering now - Kids age 11 and up (or turning 11 soon!) to sign up for the Red Cross Babysitter Course here at the school Friday, February 14th 8:30-4:30pm. The cost is \$75/student. The course is very popular and space is limited so be sure to look online or pick up a registration form at the school. Call Sally with any questions.

Crafts with Cleo and Her Friend Jess - Free! Parent Participation on Monday mornings for Tots and their Grown Up. Join us in the multi-purpose room for a simple craft, snack, story and a bit of free play. Must pre-register by calling Sally 604-823-0257 or email sallylum@shaw.ca as space is limited.

Seniors Tech Support - Saturday, Jan. 18th 9am-12noon. We will have volunteer helpers with some tech experience or even expertise so please call Sally to book a ½ hr time slot. You can bring your phone, ipad/tablet or laptop and volunteers will help you with any questions about your device. Call Sally to book a spot...604-823-0257



Why? Oh Why??

Yarrow Seniors welcomes YOU! We meet every Wednesday at noon in the Seniors room at the Community Hall. Bring your lunch, or not, and join us at 12 noon! OR, come at 12:30 when we continue to do other things. Like play crib. Work on jigsaw puzzles. Scrabble. Quirkle. Etc. Etc. All of which causes me to wonder!

Why is cribbage such a longstanding, popular game? I personally learned to play it from my Dad years ago. He came back from serving in the RCAF in WWII and taught us kids to play the game. If you play crib, where and how did you learn? Or perhaps you would like to learn! That would be fun to set up a table of learners!

And what makes certain games, like Scrabble, such an enduring and popular game with some folk? Or, I'm always impressed by anyone who enjoys sitting in front of a jigsaw puzzle and working on it through 'thick and thin'!!!

We have had dear members who like NONE OF THE ABOVE! BUT they enjoy knitting and visiting! THEN they delight in donating their beautiful productions to those-in-need!

Whatever appeals to you, please come and join us sometime. Opportunities abound. Lunch, if you like, with Yarrow Elementary students. Concerts, if that is your cup of tea, at the Chilliwack Cultural Centre. Christmas is virtually upon us! Come and share the true meaning of the season with us. You won't be disappointed. Kindness, warmth and hospitality are always being served up. Oh yes, and edibles too!

Bev 604-823-7232



A Christ Centred Community

We meet on Sundays at 10am for our Worship Service. Kids Sunday School and discussion/coffee time follows. Everyone is welcome.

Christmas Events

Yarrow Lights in Pioneer Park November 30 from 6-8pm

All is Calm, All is Bright – Christmas Meditation Space from 6pm-8pm on Sundays in December.

December 7 at 5:30 - Christmas Dinner hosted by Yarrow Kids Club. We will be collecting nonperishable food for the Little Food Bank in Yarrow. Free tickets will be available on eventbright.ca

December 20 at 6:30 - Community Caroling. Refreshments will be served.

December 24 at 6:30 – Christmas Eve Service

Please go to our website or call/email the office for more details on what's happening throughout the week and for future events.

Office:

Lisa Eby – office@yarrowmb.org
yarrowmbchurch@gmail.com
41995 Yarrow Central Rd
604-823-6622
www.yarrowmb.org

YARROW ALLIANCE

DRIVEN BY LOVE

10AM - SUNDAYS
42479 YARROW CENTRAL RD.

Join us for our advent Sundays leading up to our Christmas Eve services!

December 1st: Hope is Near Us

December 8th: Peace Comforts Us

December 15th: Joy Restores Us

December 22nd: Love Fills Us

DECEMBER 24TH, CHRISTMAS EVE

Services at 3 & 5 PM

a weary world rejoices



Yarrow Canadian Reformed Church

We would love for you to join us! Worship services are every Sunday at 10:00am and 2:00pm

www.yarrowchurch.ca
604-490-2125




Services Led by
Pastor Jeremy Segstro

42285 Yarrow Central Road



Canadian Reformed Church

Adult & Teen Challenge
Come and have chapel with us!



Every Tuesday evening at the
Chilliwack Men's Centre
4166 Eckert Street

Hear dynamic music and a variety of guest speakers every week!
Chapel starts at 6:30pm
Questions? call Mike Lee 6043789745
www.teenchallengebc.com

Yarrow United Mennonite Church

4336 Eckert St
Sunday morning services at 10:30 a.m.
The office is open Tuesday and Thursday mornings.
For an Email connection Contact
Ptr Darnell - dbarkman@yumchurch.com
We are an Anabaptist community loving the world because Jesus Christ is reconciling all things. Everyone is welcome to join us as we grow in the grace, joy, and peace of God.
For more info, visit yumchurch.com.

Happy Holidays from our family to yours

Victor*, Alanna and Sheldon* Klassen

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It's likely safe to say that most Canadian houses have a poinsettia on display during the Christmas season. It turns out there are multiple links between the pretty plant and Christmas.

Cuetlaxochitl (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) is native to southern Mexico, where the Aztecs used it for millennia to produce red and purple dyes as well as medicines. The shrub responds to the lengthening nights after the autumn equinox by preparing its leaf bracts to turn colour. It is its nature to bloom in December. The flower is actually that little yellow circle in the middle of the "bloom".

The timing of the annual bloom for wild cuetlaxochitl began the plant's association with the Christmas season during the 16th

century, when missionaries spread the Catholic faith through the indigenous communities of Mexico.

There is an old Mexican legend about how Poinsettias and Christmas come together: There was once a poor Mexican girl called Pepita who had no present to give the baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve Services. As Pepita walked to the chapel, sadly, her cousin Pedro tried to cheer her up.

"I'm sure that even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him will make Jesus Happy."

Pepita didn't know what she could give, so she picked a handful of weeds from the roadside and made them into a small bouquet. She felt embarrassed because she could only give this small present to Jesus. As she walked through the chapel to the altar, she remembered what Pedro had said. She began to feel better, knelt down and put the bouquet at the bottom of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers, and everyone who saw them were sure they had seen a miracle. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the 'Flores de Noche Buena', or 'Flowers of the Holy Night'.

The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes thought as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent his purity.

Cultivation in the US began when diplomat Joel Roberts Poinsett (origin of the plant's common name) sent some of the plants back to his greenhouses in South Carolina in the 1820s. They were originally sold as cut flowers.

The plant's popularity boomed in the 1900's after North American growers bred and grafted the lanky roadside shrub to produce a more compact product suitable for potted sales. Further development with phytoplasma bacteria in the 1990's enhanced bract production to yield the bushy plants we now know.

The poinsettia is the world's most economically important potted plant. Each year in the US, approximately 70 million poinsettias are sold in a period of six weeks, at a value of US\$250 million.

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Breakfast With Santa

NOVEMBER 2024

Saturday December 7th
9 am to 11 am
Yarrow Community Centre
4670 Community Street

**Pancakes with
 whipped cream
 & strawberries**
Coffee and juice



Adults \$5.00 Children Under 12 \$2.00 Tots Under 5 free
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Yarrow Waterworks



Welcome Yarrow Water Users as we continue celebrating our 80th anniversary this year.

Our 80th AGM was held on May 16 and Ron Wedel & Gord Borne were both re-elected as trustees and have begun their 2nd terms. Congratulations & thanks to

both Ron & Gord for putting their names forward to continue to help run our community water system.

We had no water supply issues this summer as we didn't have to deal with any heat dome type weather.

With the atmospheric river weather and higher Vedder River levels & flows in late October, we increased our disinfection dosage & our water quality sampling schedule to ensure our water distribution system stays coliform free.

We have had to spend a lot of time collecting overdue water bills with an unusually high number of outstanding accounts in 2024. There were 115 bills outstanding on Oct.25 when the Sept.30 billing was due. On Friday, Nov.8, we mailed out Past Due notices to 81 accounts. Any unpaid

accounts will be followed up with 24 Hour Turn Off notices within the next couple of weeks.

We'll be reviewing our Toll Bylaw to review any tolls remaining after said shall have added thereto a percentage an addition of twelve percent (12%) thereof. We need to increase the penalty to recover costs related to collecting late payments.

Please remember to winterize your outside taps & yard hydrants soon as Jack Frost will soon be here.

Thanks for your support for the community water system. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the office.

On behalf of the trustees,

John McAuley
Chair
Yarrow Waterworks District (YWD)
604-823-6015
office@yarrowwd.ca



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Yarrow Petro-Canada 42221 Yarrow Central Road 604-823-4200



Book Exchange Party

Chilliwack Library, 45860 First Avenue, Downtown Chilliwack
Monday, Dec 16, 6:15 pm – 7:15 pm

Bring a book, take a book! Ready to give your personal library a refresh? Come to our casual book exchange, where you can gift someone a book from your collection and bring home another that is new to you. Participants encouraged to stay and socialize. **Drop in. For ages 19+.**



A bit about our history!

With love and dedication to our community, the Yarrows Secret Santa hit the ground running in 2015. Our main objective was to help a family that was in need, even if they were working but just couldn't make ends meet.

Everything we did/do is anonymous.. Only the admins know who the family is. In the selection process we made sure the family didn't qualify for any other baskets or programs. Throughout the years the spirit of giving has been full of generosity. With local businesses donating, local youth providing stocking, and members of the community pitching in to shop, donate, and wrap gifts.

One of the key elements now is that we don't just operate at Christmas time. We are here to help when we are needed. Providing, meal trains, food baskets, and wonderful little gifts to those who need it throughout the year.

Approaching the holiday season we are looking for non-perishable items to stock our pantry, gift cards and cash donations. Stay tuned for this years families shopping list. Contact Victoria at vicki_kuit@hotmail.com or 604-798-0366 to help or donate.

Join our Facebook group here and stay in the loop with all our updates! <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/rJqKjTUem5S9XKz6/?mibextid=K35Xfp>

The YARROW FAMILY PLACE

Hosted by Volunteers of:



Tuesdays 9 to 10:30 am
Multi Purpose Room
Yarrow Community School
Bring a healthy snack to share

What I don't like about
office Christmas
parties is looking for
a job the next day.

PHYLLIS DILLER

It's Christmas Eve.
It's the one night of the
year when we all act
a little nicer, we smile
a little easier,
we cheer a little more.
For a couple of hours
out of the whole year,
we are the people
that we always hoped
we would be.

'SCROOGED'



The joy of brightening other lives becomes for us the magic of the holidays.

W.C. JONES



SUPPORT LOCAL
yarrow farm market



Christmas Market

NOVEMBER 29
5-8:30 PM
YARROW COMMUNITY HALL

FREE ENTRY



If you haven't got any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble.

BOB HOPE

YARROW COUNTRY CHRISTMAS MARKET



Yarrow Community Centre
4670 Community Street, YARROW, B.C.

Saturday, November 30, 2024
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

40 Booths to browse Focus on handcrafts
Door Prize Draw
Yarrow tees, caps, pins & koozies make perfect gifts!

Concession featuring Leesa's famous chili, Victoria's gluten-free turkey noodle soup and Jan's fabulous butter tarts!

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We appreciate everyone who attended our Harvest Supper. Especially the many volunteers who helped decorate, cook and clean up! LOCALS made the festive table centers. Wisbeys and Johnston Packers provided the groceries at special pricing.

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THANK YOU to good neighbour Bill Sutton who kindly repaired a detached downspout at the community centre. This was a huge blessing for the hall manager who is a big chicken on ladders.

**Remember this December,
that love weighs more
than gold.**

JOSEPHINE DASKAM BACON

Christmas Cheer with the Chilliwack Harmony Chorus

Sardis Library, Sardis Library, 5819 Tyson Rd

Wed, Dec 11, 2 pm – 2:45 pm

Join members of the Chilliwack Harmony Chorus as they celebrate the season-barbershop style! Everyone is welcome to join us for holiday refreshments and enjoyable Christmas music. **Drop in.**



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Holiday Cheer with the Mayday Youth Choir

Chilliwack Library, 45860 First Avenue, Downtown Chilliwack
Saturday, Dec 14, 2 pm

Join us for an afternoon of music, refreshments and crafts. The Mayday Club Youth Choir is a grassroots youth-run charity based out of Abbotsford BC, that aims to erase the stigmas surrounding neurodiversity. Cozy up with a warm beverage while they perform some familiar favourites then stay after to make some holiday themed crafts. **Drop in, all ages welcome.**



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Yarrow United Mennonite Church

4336 Eckert St.

Sunday morning services - 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Evening Contemplative Prayer

in the sanctuary

7:20-7:50pm *except holidays

Christmas Eve service - 6pm Apple cider in the foyer
6:30pm Service starts



As Christmas approaches, feel free to join us on a Sunday in December as we celebrate the Advent season.

Photo by [Davies Designs Studio](#) on [Unsplash](#)



Christmas a lifetime ago

no doubt had cradled our mothers. I missed the chance to ask and will always wonder where the adults slept. Such details weren't important at the time.

Gramma didn't have a fireplace so we safety-pinned our stockings to the back of "the green chair". We didn't have a fireplace either. Actually, I can't think of anyone who did. Maybe they're a new invention?

It was always still pitch dark when us kids began stirring in the "morning". Anticipation is a powerful drug. By some stroke of fate, Santa always arrived about the time we all woke up. We were cautioned to stay upstairs but we could hear him ho-ho-hoing in the living room and banging stuff around as he filled the stockings. We were allowed to leave the bedroom once he was gone. We were so awe-struck it never occurred to us to venture down the stairs early.

This would probably be 5am. Gramma would be firing up the wood stove to get the turkey on in time for noon. Yep, both Grammas had wood stoves. This one had hydro and running (cold only) water. Gramma Bell on the farm had neither.

While the turkey cooked we headed off to the riverbank hill with the fathers. Another mystery is how the family toboggan somehow got there. Maybe it had been lashed to the roof of the car.

After turkey we drove to the farm for more visiting and roast goose. I always hoped it was the terrifying gander that made each trip to the barn a race for my life.

I have no memories of the trip home. We likely collapsed like a litter of played-out puppies and were carried to the car.

When I was a kid our family of 6 always drove the 50 miles to spend Christmas Eve at my maternal grandmother's tiny two bedroom house. No idea if our car had a radio. We always sang hymns & carols for the entire trip.

Aunt Bess, Uncle Mac and the 4 cousins arrived from Toronto about the same time we did. Out of parental earshot we would reminisce about the summer's forbidden foraging trips to the dump, street fights with the Haney Gang & the time we launched Kevin down the river on a raft we had made. We only did that once.

Us older 5 slept (when we did manage to sleep) sideways on the double bed in Tony's Room. Tony was a farm-boy high school student who boarded with Gramma. Ontario had no school buses in the 1950's. The youngest 3 shared a wrought iron crib that



Read. Learn. Play. | www.fvrl.ca

YARROW LIBRARY 4670 Community Street 604-823-4664

Storytimes: Ages 2-6.
Wednesdays 10-10:30am
September 18th- December 11th



Christmas Scavenger Hunt – December 3-21st
Winter Scavenger Hunt – January 7-25th

Kids Christmas Guessing Jar – December 3 -21st
Guess the # of items in the jar and you could win a prize!

Intro to Miniature Fashion Design and Alterations:
Saturday November 30th 1-2:30pm!
All attendees will be entered to win a unique sewing kit! Suggested ages: 8 – adult



Letters to Santa!

Pick out one of our letters and write a secret note to Santa.
Drop it in our special North Pole Mailbox. Nov 12- Dec 6



Kids Scavenger Hunts:

Red Poppy Scavenger Hunt
November 2-23th Find all the poppies in the library and get a special sticker & a medal!
AND fill in a note to our veterans for the Vedder Legion and enter to win a prize from the Poppy Store.

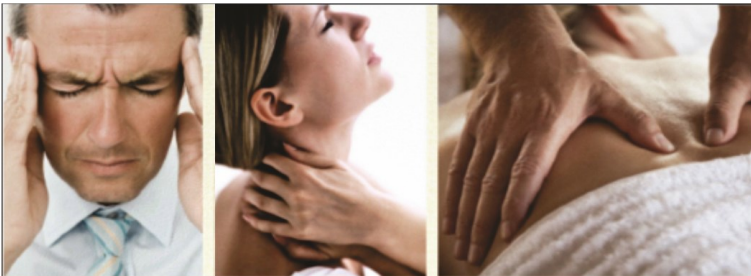


Yarrow Library Hours

Tuesdays, 9 – 6:00 pm
Wednesdays, 9 – 4 pm
Thursdays, 1 – 8 pm
Saturdays, 10 – 2 pm

Holiday Closures:

- Christmas Eve** Tuesday, December 24, 2024
Changed Hours Closes at: 2:00 pm
- Christmas** Wednesday, December 25, 2024
Closed All Day
- Boxing Day** Thursday, December 26, 2024
Closed All Day
- New Years Eve** Tuesday, December 31, 2024
Changed Hours Closes at: 2:00 pm
- New Years** Wednesday, January 1, 2025
Closed All Day



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“I wish we could put up some of the Christmas spirit in jars and open a jar of it every month.”

—Harlan Miller

ENTERTAINMENT BY:

*Ryan McAllister + Band, Fraser Valley Children's Chorus,
MC: Darnell Barkman*

Christmas Tree Lighting



Yarrow Lights

Presented by United Way
Lower Mainland

Hosted By
Yarrow Volunteer Society and
the Churches of Yarrow



NOV 30 | 6-8PM

Yarrow Pioneer Park - 4390 Kehler St

- ★ HOT APPLE CIDER ★ HOT CHOCOLATE ★ COFFEE + TEA
- ★ HORSE + CARRIAGE RIDES (WITH SPECIAL GUEST SANTA)
- ★ CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENTS ★ CHRISTMAS COOKIES
- ★ UNITED WAY BUTTON MAKING BOOTH ★ SAMOSAS
- ★ VINTAGE TROLLEY RIDES ★ KETTLE CORN ★ PHOTO BOOTH
- ★ HOT DOGS PROVIDED BY THE YARROW FIREFIGHTERS
- ★ DUCK SLIDERS

(Donations accepted for the Chilliwack Fire Department Charitable Society)

★ **NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DRIVE** ★