



Ho Ho Ho!

Everyone loves a parade, almost as much as everyone loves Old Saint Nick. On Dec. 6, Father Christmas visits downtown for the 12th annual Rogers Santa Claus Parade (page 49), **Vancouver's unofficial kick-off to the festive season.** The jolly old elf always spreads good cheer, while volunteers collect donations for the food bank. Those seeking pre-parade fun head to the Coast Capital Savings Christmas Square for gingerbread decorating, face painting, music and dance.

"You'll Shoot Your Eye Out"

All Ralphie wants is a Red Ryder BB gun "with a compass in the stock and this thing which tells time," but he's **thwarted at every turn by the well-meaning but overly cautious adults in his life.** Will Ralphie find what his heart most desires tucked under the tree on Christmas morning? Find out in *A Christmas Story, The Musical* (page 31), a heart-warming show running to Dec. 27 at the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage.



A PEACH OF A SHOW

Did you ever wonder what it might be like to **inhabit a magical piece of fruit alongside fantastical creatures?** No? Well, children's author Roald Dahl did. His charmingly quirky book *James and the Giant Peach* is brought to life in a **musical for young audiences.** Back by popular demand, it returns to the Waterfront Theatre from Dec. 6 to Jan. 3. See page 54.