

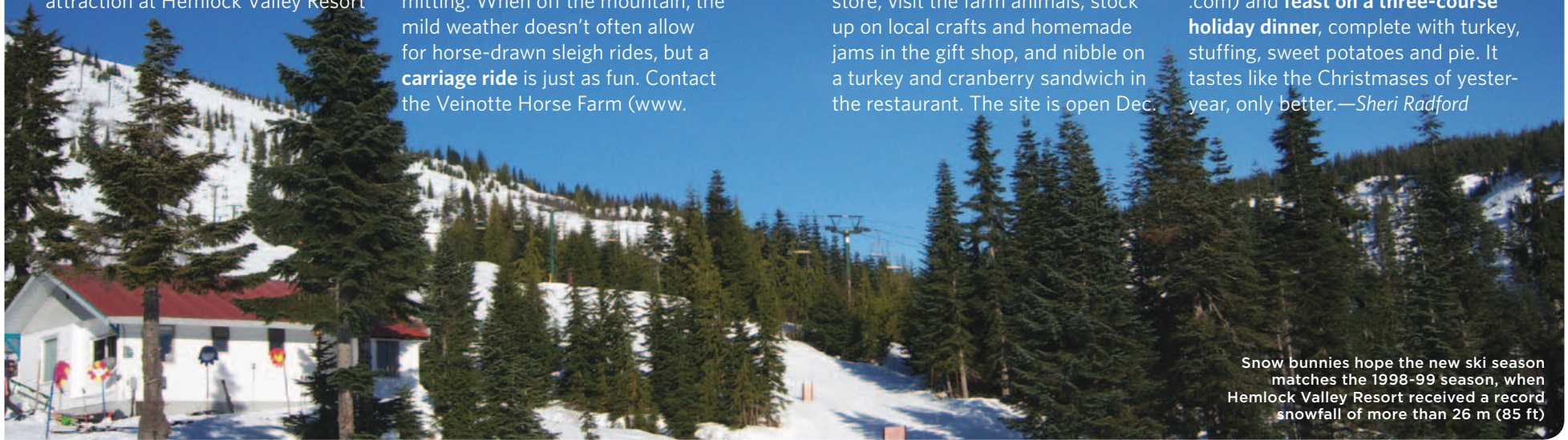
An Old-Fashioned Christmas

For seasonal activities that hark back to the days of yore, visit the nearby Harrison Mills area. A guaranteed white Christmas is the star attraction at Hemlock Valley Resort

(pictured; www.hemlockvalleyresort.com), with its **skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing and tubing**. The season opens Dec. 7, weather permitting. When off the mountain, the mild weather doesn't often allow for horse-drawn sleigh rides, but a **carriage ride** is just as fun. Contact the Veinotte Horse Farm (www.veinottehorsefarm.ca) to arrange an excursion. **Step back in time** at Kilby Historic Site (www.kilby.ca): wander through the 1906 general store, visit the farm animals, stock up on local crafts and homemade jams in the gift shop, and nibble on a turkey and cranberry sandwich in the restaurant. The site is open Dec.

6 to 17, with special visits by Santa Dec. 8 and 9. Throughout the month, bring your appetite to the Rivers Edge Restaurant (www.sandpiperclub.com) and **feast on a three-course holiday dinner**, complete with turkey, stuffing, sweet potatoes and pie. It tastes like the Christmases of yesteryear, only better.—*Sheri Radford*

Snow bunnies hope the new ski season matches the 1998-99 season, when Hemlock Valley Resort received a record snowfall of more than 26 m (85 ft)



invention captivates the imaginations of young and old (**Dec 5-15**). Pacific Theatre, 1440 W. 12th Ave. at Hemlock. 604-731-5518. www.pacifictheatre.org & **Map 1: C6**

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE Gilbert and Sullivan's uproarious comic opera skewers cherished institutions and attitudes (**Dec 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9**). Queen Elizabeth Theatre, 630 Hamilton St. at Dunsmuir. Tickets 604-683-0222. www.vancouveropera.ca & **Map 1: C6**

THE WIZARD OF OZ Join Dorothy and her friends in the beloved family musical (**Dec 7-Jan 6**). For ages 4+. \$29, student/senior \$25. 4-17 \$15. Waterfront Theatre, 1412 Cartwright St. Tickets 604-669-3410. www.counseltheatre.ca & **Map 6: D4**

ATTRACTIONS
CAPILANO SUSPENSION BRIDGE Cross the swaying planks of the bridge suspended above the Capilano River and wander among towering

evergreens in a West Coast rainforest (**year-round**). Open daily except Dec 25. 3735 Capilano Rd., North Vancouver. 604-985-7474. www.capbridge.com Partial & **Map 4: B4**

SCIENCE WORLD AT TELUS WORLD OF SCIENCE Explore interactive exhibits, watch live science demos, catch a show in the Science Theatre and immerse yourself in the OMNIMAX Theatre (**year-round**). Open Tu-Su and holiday M. Closed Dec 25. 1455 Quebec St. 604-443-7440. www.scienceworld.ca & **Map 1: E7**

VANCOUVER AQUARIUM Located in Stanley Park. Home to more than 50,000 strange and wonderful creatures from the Arctic, Amazon, Africa, Tropics and Canada's wild West Coast (**year-round**). Open daily. Special events: *Scuba Claus* (**Dec 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 21-24**). *Luminescence* A celebration of aquatic light (**to Jan 22**). *The Polar Express 4-D Experience* (**to Jan 6**). *The Great Salmon Run 4-D*

Experience (**Jan 7-Feb 6**). 845 Avison Way. 604-659-3474. www.vanaqua.org & **Map 5: B5**

VANCOUVER LOOKOUT AT HARBOUR CENTRE Sightseeing atop a 177-m (581-ft) tower on the edge of Gastown. The observation deck offers 360-degree views of the city, harbour and mountains. Admission tickets allow same-date return visits (**year-round**). Open daily. 555 W. Hastings St. 604-689-0421. www.vancouverlookout.com & **Map 1: C6**

MUSEUMS
SURREY MUSEUM Galleries tell Surrey's stories (**year-round**). Tu-F 9:30 am-5:30 pm, Sa 10 am-5 pm. Exhibition: *Baskets for Barter* See examples of Coast Salish baskets (**to Dec 24**). 17710 56A Ave., Surrey. 604-592-6956. www.surrey.ca/heritage & **Map 2: F6**

WEST VANCOUVER MUSEUM Educational and public programs

including lectures and tours (**year-round**). Tu-Sa 11 am-5 pm. Exhibition: *Selwyn Pullan: Photographing Mid-Century West Coast Modernism* (**to Dec 15**). 680 17th St., West Vancouver. 604-925-7295. www.westvancouvermuseum.ca Partial & **Map 4: B2**

PARKS & GARDENS
DR. SUN YAT-SEN CLASSICAL CHINESE GARDEN This Ming Dynasty-style garden is tucked away in the middle of Chinatown. The architecture, rocks, plants and water are carefully combined in a serene setting (**year-round**). Tu-Su. 578 Carrall St. 604-662-3207. www.vancouverchinesegarden.com Partial & **Map 1: C7**

RICHMOND NATURE PARK Four trails wind through 40 ha (100 acres) of forest and bog (**year-round**). Open daily. Special event: *Live Owl Show* Meet

live owls and investigate their unique nocturnal adaptations (**Dec 2**). 11 am-3 pm. 11851 Westminster Hwy. at No. 5 Rd. 604-718-6188. www.richmond.ca & **Map 3: C4**

STANLEY PARK Locals and visitors walk, bike or blade the 8-km (5-mi) seawall, taking in spectacular scenery. Attractions in the 400-ha (1,000-acre) park include the aquarium, rose garden, totem poles, Lost Lagoon and Siwash Rock (**year-round**). Enter via west end of Beach Ave., Nelson St. or Georgia St. In Vancouver 311, outside Vancouver 604-873-7000. www.vancouverparks.ca Partial & **Map 5**

TOURS & LEISURE ACTIVITIES
Sightseeing Tours
PADDLEWHEELER RIVERBOAT TOURS Day tours and dine/dance sun-

set cruises aboard the sternwheeler *MV Native* on the Fraser River (**year-round**). Christmas family fun cruises (**Dec 2, 9, 16**). Christmas luncheon cruises (**Dec 6, 13, 20**). Christmas dinner cruises (**Dec 3, 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20**). Christmas fun nights, adults only (**Dec 14, 21**). Christmas carol cruise (**Dec 23**). New Year's Eve dine and dance party (**Dec 31**). Westminster Quay, New Westminster. Reservations 604-525-4465. www.vancouverpaddlewheeler.com **Map 2: E4**

Wineries
VANCOUVER URBAN WINERY Manufactures and distributes wine for several brands, all from a heritage building in Gastown. Uses FreshTAP to sell wine to restaurants. Wine tasting bar (**year-round**). 55 Dunlevy Ave. 604-566-9463. www.vancouverurbanwinery.com **Map 1: C8**

PHOTO BY SHERI RADFORD

>> GREEN The interpretive garden display at Science World's (page 60) Ken Spencer Science Park features herbs and plants in a living wall made from recycled plastic bottles.