

Trumpeter swans return to Tahsis & Leiner Rivers

~ photo Chris Hendrix, story Catherine Gordon

Winter has officially arrived with the annual return of the trumpeter swans in Head Bay, Perry Lake and the Leiner Estuary. These elegant white swans, once close to being endangered, seem to be taking to the local scenery.

Long term swan observer, Tony Ellis, says that the trumpeter swans were not seen in these parts before the early 1970's. Tony states:

“The swans that arrive here are most likely descendants of the original mating pair that came to nest in Perry Lake, over thirty five years ago.”



The trumpeter swan usually winters in the Comox- Courtenay area, where they mate for life. Tony notes that trumpeter swans have become so successful in the South Island communities, that they now are perceived as pests, much like the Canada geese in the Lower Mainland. Due to diminished water bird sanctuary space, and human expansion, the swans have been forced into public areas where they have destroyed the grass and their droppings have fouled some small lakes and creeks.

Luckily, Tahsis has plenty of suitable marshland, and welcomes the yearly return of the trumpeter swans. Rough estimates put the local population at over 50 nesting pairs in the area, with lots of room to grow. Bird lovers can see the trumpeter swans, and their distant cousins, the snow geese, at the mouth of the Tahsis River and the Leiner Estuary.

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Road Open, Free and Clear

~ story by Catherine Gordon

The road from Tahsis to Gold River is open to traffic. A freak storm took out 7 patches of road and two bridges on the Tree to Sea Highway that connects the two West Island villages.

When the all clear came road crews and the RCMP rolled away the huge logs preventing motorists driving on the road. Crews were still working

on portions of the road, and caution was needed to avoid hitting workers and equipment.

On the up side, travelers were treated to beautiful snow laden scenery, and a relatively clear road, making the journey a joy instead of a trial.

The RCMP suggests the use of winter tires and / or chains as well as slowing down and driving to conditions, to best enjoy the trip.

Tahsis Christmas Calendar

- ◆ Saturday Dec 02 11:00 am to 2:00 pm ~ Bazaar & Craft Fair at CMESS
- ◆ Sunday Dec 03 11:00 am ~ Mass & Social Lunch at St Joseph's Catholic Church
- ◆ Thursday Dec 07 Tree Lighting ~ weather permitting
- ◆ Sunday Dec 10 12 Noon ~ Annual General Meeting Tahsis Christian Church
- ◆ Sunday Dec 17 5:00 pm ~ Childrens' Christmas Party & Community Dir
- ◆ Wednesday Dec 20 7:00 pm ~ CMESS Christmas Concert
- ◆ Monday Dec 25 11:00 am ~ Christmas Mass at St Joseph's, with noon luncheon
- ◆ Monday Dec 25 5:00 pm ~ True Meaning of Christmas Dinner Rec Centre

For Donations to Childrens' Christmas Party, Call Corinne Van Solkema 934-7741



Next Newsletter Jan 4, 2007. To have your event listed call Catherine Gordon 934-6303 or Alice Thompson 934-7665

Chamber of Commerce Elections

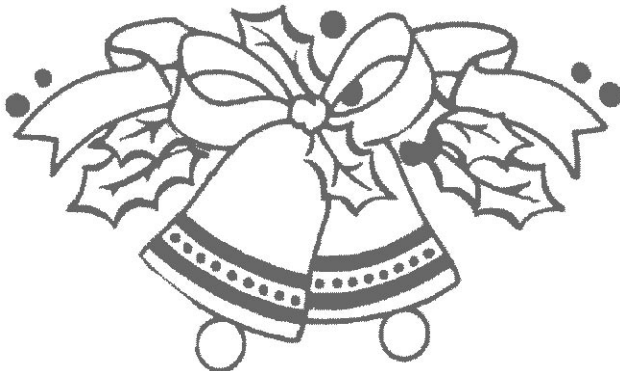
~ story Catherine Gordon

The Tahsis Chamber of Commerce met for their Annual General Meeting on November 25th to elect new officers for 2007.

The outcome was as follows; Corrine Dahling was elected President, Ross Hosick elected Vice-President, Jude Schooner elected Secretary-Treasurer, and Judy Ellis, Darryl Hunter, Fern Eastcott, Scott Schooner elected as Directors.

The dinner and presentation by Jude and Scott Schooner of Tahtsa Diving Shop were well attended. A DVD about local underwater scenery was shown, and is available through the Dive Shop.

The Chamber meets every third Thursday of the month, and will be taking December off to allow members to enjoy the holidays.



3rd Annual "True Meaning of Christmas Dinner"

The 3rd Annual "True Meaning of Christmas Dinner" will be held December 25, 2006 at the Rec Center. All are invited to a buffet style Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings, free of charge, thanks to the efforts of Corrine and Dan Dahling. To register, call Corrine at 934-5587. Anyone wishing to donate goods or volunteer time can drop them off or sign up at Head Bay Station.

Pancake Breakfast

The Tahsis Christian Church, led by Keith Orr, is continuing the Pancake Breakfast as a fund-raiser for restoring our great Tahsis landmark, the A-Frame church on South Maquinna. The Pancake Breakfast is held every Monday morning from 8-11 am. All donations of goods or volunteer time are welcome.

Community Christmas Party

~ story by Catherine Gordon

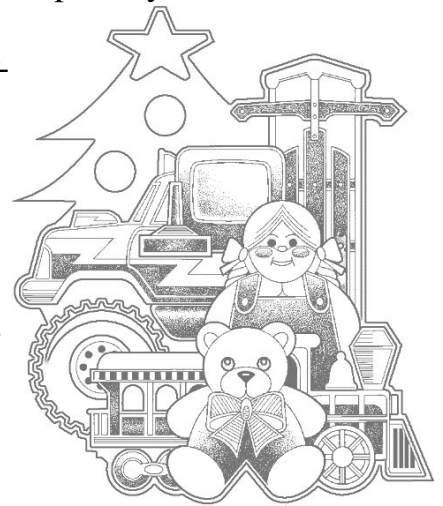
Santa will be coming to town, and Tahsis is celebrating with the Annual Community Christmas Party on December 17, 2006 at 5:00 PM.



Santa and friend on a visit to the 2004 Community Dinner

Organizer Corrine Van Solkema has been working hard to put together all the elements to make the annual event a huge success, starting in early fall to gather donations from local businesses and individuals. She works especially hard to make sure

every child gets a wonderful gift from Santa Claus. Dinner will be potluck, bring a plate and utensils. Donations of money and time are still being gratefully accepted. Donations can be dropped off at the Post Office, or call Corrine at 934-7741.



Catholic Church Christmas Mass

St Joseph's Catholic Church will be holding its Christmas Celebrations on December 3, 2006. A full Mass will be lead by Father Anthony, assisted by Seminarian Alfredo, followed by a pot luck luncheon. Everyone is invited. Lay Minister Chris Fincati, invited the whole community to worship and enjoy the season with neighbours, both Catholic and non-Catholic.

Chris explains "It's a time of coming together as a town" Christmas Mass will be celebrated on December 25, 2006, 11 AM with a potluck lunch to follow after the service.

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