

## ◆ NEWS



The hand of Jean O'Neill, left, holds silver sorted from copper as Joyce Kidd, Roy Preston and Esther Chisholm work away in an early morning penny-rolling session. Berwick on the Lake residents have volunteered rolling Pennies For Presents since 2000.

CHRIS BUSH  
THE NEWS BULLETIN

# Volunteers keep on rolling

## Pennies project depends on all its hard-working helpers

BY MELISSA FRYER  
THE NEWS BULLETIN

Collecting more than \$10,000 in pennies every year means a lot of work for a lot of people.

It's the volunteers with the Pennies for Presents campaign who make magic happen.

The entire News Bulletin office gets involved, from giving our readers updates within our news pages to picking up pennies from donors in the community. "All our own staff pick up pennies," said Frank Legh, Pennies for Presents co-ordinator for Black Press.

Retired Nanaimo fire chief Tom MacDonald transports buckets of loose pennies from the News Bulletin's office to volunteers at Berwick on the Lake, who roll all the change.

It's then taken to Terminal Park Canada Trust, where bank employees deposit thousands of rolled coins, before they're taken away by Securicor.

MacDonald has volunteered with the Pennies for Presents

campaign since it began in 1996, lugging the heavy coins from one location to the next.

"It's tremendously labour intensive," Legh said.

"That's a lot of heavy weight and people move that around."

What's also labour intensive is rolling hundreds of thousands of coins, which is graciously done

by volunteers at Berwick.

"That is the biggest job of all," Legh said. "They never complain – they just keep doing it."

Tracey Hunter,

recreation co-ordinator at Berwick, said about 12 seniors get together each day to roll pennies. It's a great social activity and the seniors feel good about helping worthy charities.

"They're very keen to do it," Hunter said.

They also donate to the campaign, keeping a penny jar out all year round.

Pennies for Presents raises money for three charities – the Great Nanaimo Toy Drive, the Nanaimo Boys and Girls Club and the Salvation Army – to buy presents for children at Christmas.

The campaign continues until Dec. 15, so get your

pennies into the News Bulletin office, or one of our drop off points in the community, as soon as possible.

The News Bulletin is located at 777 Poplar St., in the north end of Terminal Park mall. Drop off points include John's Bedroom Barn, Nanaimo Coin and Stamp, North Ridge Fitness, Coast Realty Downtown, Christensen Mazda, Canadian Tire, In-Print Downtown, La-Z-Boy Furniture, Royal LePage at Brooks Landing and DS Designing Spaces.

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