



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Announce CP Holiday Train Charity Challenge

Maple Ridge, BC: Maple Ridge Mayor Nicole Read and Pitt Meadows Mayor John Becker have agreed to a challenge to see which community can raise more money and food donations as part of the CP Holiday Train visit to both communities on Wednesday, December 17, 2014. The train will stop in Maple Ridge at 7:00 pm at the Port Haney West Coast Express station and then move on to Harris Road in Pitt Meadows at 8:45 pm. This first ever stop in Pitt Meadows is in recognition of the City's 100th Anniversary.

“The CP Holiday Train event raises money for local food banks all across Canada, and in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows the Friends in Need Food Bank relies on this fundraiser to fill their shelves well into the New Year when donations dry up. Mayor Becker and I decided to take advantage of this unique opportunity to issue this community challenge and honour the work of our local food bank volunteers,” said Mayor Read. She continued, “Here’s the challenge. The community that raises the most money and food donations per capita will have their flag flown behind the Mayor of the losing community at the first televised Council meeting in January and in their City Hall for a month. It’s that simple. It’s about helping those in need and celebrating the spirit of charity and generosity in each community.”

How can Maple Ridge residents help win the community challenge? It’s easy! On Saturday, December 13, 2014 volunteers from the Maple Ridge Fire Department and their Youth Academy will hold their annual ‘boot drive’ at all the local grocery stores and shopping centres. All the cash donated that day will be presented as part of the CP Holiday Train stop on December 17, 2014. In addition, people who come to the CP Holiday Train on December 17 at 7:30 pm are encouraged to make a donation of cash or non-perishable food items.

Donations can also be made at City Hall. There's a bin near the Reception Desk for non-perishable Food items and you can drop a cash donation off in an envelope with the receptionist.

This year the entertainment on the train includes Canadian recording legend Jim Cuddy who will be singing some of his hits along with some holiday classics. Santa Claus will be there to meet the kids and Mayor Read and our local firefighters will be on hand to greet the crowd and be part of the presentations.

The event runs rain or shine, so bundle up the family and be part of this community challenge to benefit the Friends in Need Food Bank. For more information about the CP Holiday Train challenge you can contact Mayor Nicole Read at 604-463-5221 or nread@mapleridge.ca