

## Beginning to feel like Christmas



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Greg MacDonald, Times Staff

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The holiday spirit will be haunting every corner of the city starting next week as Christmas in Cambridge kicks off its seventh year.

Decorations are going up now and the finishing touches are being put on this year's festival, which starts Nov. 26 with Music and Lights in the Village in Hespeler.

The following month will be filled with Christmas cheer, as popular events get some new twists and old favourites return to Cambridge.

The highlight of every festival is the arrival of the CPR Holiday Train, which travels across the continent collecting canned goods for local food banks, said Colleen Lichti, recreation co-ordinator with the City of Cambridge.

"It's always exciting and brings a huge crowd," Lichti said.

"They're always amazed at how many people come out in Cambridge."

The holiday train runs through town decked out with Christmas lights. When it finally stops, a car opens up to a stage and performers entertain the crowd.

The train will be arriving Dec. 2 at 4:15 p.m. at the Malcom Street Station across from Galt Collegiate Institute.

The festival has proved popular over the last few years and organizers credit that success with the wide range of events held across the city.

"Cambridge, of course, is three communities, so we try to have events in every corner of the city so everyone can get involved," Lichti said.

While most events are family-oriented, they are some that cover different ideas of the holidays, added her colleague Wanda Schaefer-Stilling.

The traditional Christmas is well represented, but events like *Unsilent Night* – "a sound sculpture" – explore a more adult and avant-garde side of the holiday.

"There's really something for everyone," Schaefer-Stilling said.

The festival even extends beyond Christmas, with the Twelfth Night event on Jan. 9.

The event celebrates the Twelve Days of Christmas and is filled with some post-Christmas cheer – not to mention sword fighting and ancient ritual dances.

For more information about the festival, visit [www.christmasincambridge.ca](http://www.christmasincambridge.ca).

### **Christmas in Cambridge lineup**

#### *Music and Lights in the Village*

Nov. 27, 7 p.m., along Queen Street.

Featuring carols, tree lighting and more.

#### *CPR Holiday Train*

Dec. 2, 4:30-6 p.m., Malcolm St. station across from GCI

Enjoy live entertainment and support the Cambridge Self Help Food Bank.

#### *Candyland Carousel*

Dec. 5 to 13. Weekends: noon to 8 p.m. Weekdays: 4 to 8 p.m. Central Park, 615 King St. E.

A kids wonderland with lots of treats. Meet Santa Claus. Ride the carousel, play the games and be dazzled by the lights!

#### *Unsilent Night*

Dec. 21, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Cambridge City Hall.

Art and architecture combine for an avante-garde experience. Bring your mp3 with speakers or your portable CD player and join the moving symphony.

*Family New Year's Eve Party*

Dec. 31, 6 to 8 p.m.

Hespeler Arena, 640 Ellis Rd.

*Twelfth Night*

Jan. 9, 8 to 11 p.m., United Kingdom Club, 35 International Village Drive.

Say goodbye to the Christmas season with sword fighting and ancient rituals.

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