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Holiday Train coming

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**Holiday Train coming.** The CPR Holiday Train program features hundreds of thousands of lights *SAM BOTTTS, SPECIAL TO THE TIMES*

**Wednesday Dec. 1**  
**Train arrives at 4:45 p.m. at Malcolm Street Station**  
**(across from Galt Collegiate Institute)**

What has turned into a fun annual holiday event and more importantly, a key food bank fundraiser, the CP Holiday Train is on its way to Cambridge.

Two specially-decorated freight trains launched on their unique journeys this month.

Since 1999, the CP Holiday Train program has raised \$4.8 million and generated almost 2.3 million pounds of food donations for local food shelves. Cash donations from generous North Americans totalled close to \$750,000 last year alone.

Headlining the Holiday Train is musical sensation Melanie Doane.

Again this year, you can follow both Holiday Trains on CP's website with daily blog updates, interesting and heart-warming stories and photos from the train. People can join the Holiday Train on Facebook and follow the spirit of one of the longest-running cross-country food bank fundraisers on Twitter: @CPHolidaytrain.

Facts and stats about CP Holiday Train

- Each Holiday Train is about 1,000 feet in length with 14 decorated rail cars, including a modified box car that has been turned into a travelling stage for performers. The two trains are assembled and decorated by CP employees in Montreal, Smith Falls and Calgary.
- Extensive planning goes into the Holiday Train program each year, which begins seven months prior to the fundraising kickoff.
- The Holiday Train requires more than a 1,000 employee volunteers – from train assembly, to light design, to event production and security, to safety and planning compliance to operations. This includes most terminals and offices, where local employees plan food drives to co-ordinate with the arrival of the train.
- Each train shines brightly with hundreds of thousands of modern LED Christmas lights.
- CP supports talented Canadian musicians who live on the train and perform – no matter how cold it gets!
- Each live performance takes place from a box car converted to a professional stage.
- Crowds donate money and non-perishable food, and CP presents a cheque at each stop to top off whatever is donated.
- Everything collected in a community stays in that community for distribution.

Parking: Galt Collegiate Institute, Water Street parking lot. Accessible parking available on site.

<http://www.cambridgetimes.ca/community/article/909509--holiday-train-coming>