

Maple Ridge This Month

DECEMBER 2014

SPOTLIGHT ON: Santa Claus is Coming to Town

The Santa Claus Parade is this Saturday at 6:00 pm

It's a magical Christmas in Memorial Peace Park starting at 4:00 pm. Christmas in the Park is the official kickoff for the holiday season in Maple Ridge.

Music in the bandstand, a special petting zoo, free hot chocolate and the chance to visit with Santa in his yurt are all part of the activities leading up to the big parade!

At 6:00 pm Santa lights the giant Peace Tree at the corner of 224 Street and Haney Place and transforms it into the largest living Christmas Tree on the North Fraser! The lighting of the tree signals the start of the Santa Claus Parade that will run down Dewdney Trunk Road from 222 Street east to 224 Street and then south through the Town Centre. There will be some road closures that evening, but Santa comes but once a year!

For details, please email info@mapleridgechristmasfestival.com or check out the website at www.mapleridgechristmasfestival.com.



INFORMED: The Christmas Bells

Downtown Maple Ridge is a Winter Wonderland



In 1966 the Downtown Merchants Association, wanting to create an iconic Town Centre display for Christmas, got together and purchased the Christmas bell decorations that have been the centrepiece of the community's holiday experience. The Operations team have the responsibility of storing and maintaining them, and making sure they are hung every year. In 1966, the lights made their debut in the Town Centre and a tradition was born. This photo was taken that first year as they were hung.

In 2013 the lights were recast using the original molds and rewired with modern lights to make them look brand new. In addition, new streaming icicle lights were added to complete the revamp of our iconic Christmas streetscapes in Maple Ridge. This year the lights around the trees were replaced with LED rope lights to further enhance the display. All this work has been completed in time for the Santa Claus Parade that runs this Saturday. The best part is that some of the original business owners who bought the lights are around to see their grandchildren and great grandchildren enjoy the lights. It's a beautiful time of year, and when it's a foggy night or there's a snowfall the street is magical. Merry Christmas everyone!

INFORMED: CP Holiday Train Stops in Maple Ridge

Mark Your Calendar! Wednesday, December 17, 2014

This year, the 'train of lights' will be in Maple Ridge on Wednesday, December 17 at 7:30 pm to raise money, food and awareness for the Friends In Need Food Bank.

The train will stop across from the Billy Miner Pub and Restaurant just east of the Port Haney West Coast Express platform. The Maple Ridge stop is one of about 150 communities that are part of this year's journey by the two Holiday Trains making their way across Canada and the United States until December 18.

Each Holiday Train has 14 brightly decorated rail cars with hundreds of thousands of technology-leading LED holiday lights and designs. As well, the two trains feature a modified boxcar that has been turned into a traveling stage for performers who entertain supporters with a live festive show for the entire family. This year Canadian recording legend Jim Cuddy will be entertaining us from the mobile stage on the train.

Remember to bring a donation of food or cash with you for this year's stop of the CP Holiday Train. For additional information, photos, a route map and downloadable pictures of the two



trains visit: www.cpr.ca. Supporters can also join the Holiday Train on Facebook and on Twitter @CPHolidaytrain.

The Maple Ridge Fire Department 'Firefighters For Families Food Drive' will be happening on Saturday, December 13 at all of the major food stores in Maple Ridge from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Firefighters and members of the Youth Academy will be asking for cash donations in support of the Friends In Need Food Bank and all the money collected will be presented at the CP Holiday Train on December 17. The spirit of giving is strong in Maple Ridge! Thank you for your generosity!

Contact us at enquiries@mapleridge.ca

If you have a question about any of the content in this ad, or questions about any programs or services offered by the City of Maple Ridge, please send an email to enquiries@mapleridge.ca and one of our team members will respond to you.

INFORMED: December 2014

Council Meeting Schedule

Mayor and Council encourage everyone to attend these important public meetings. It's your chance to see how public policy is debated and enacted.

Monday, December 8

9:00 am, Workshop - Blaney Room

1:00 pm, Committee of the Whole - Council Chambers

Tuesday, December 9

6:00 pm, Public Hearing - Council Chambers

7:00 pm, Council Meeting - Council Chambers

Agendas & Minutes

Agendas for these meetings are posted online the Friday before the meeting date. Go to mapleridge.ca, click the link under Your Council on the home page.

Council This Week

Subscribe to the 'Council This Week' eNewsletter that provides a summary of issues discussed at Council Workshop meetings. Go to mapleridge.ca, click the link to 'Notify Me' and sign up today.

Council Meeting Videos

If you are unable to attend a Council Meeting, Public Hearing or Committee of the Whole meeting you can now watch these meetings on your computer 24/7. The entire unedited meetings are posted two to three days after the meeting. The video is indexed to the agenda package so that you can watch them in their entirety or click through by agenda item. Go to mapleridge.ca and click on the video link at the centre of the home page. In addition, Council meetings are now broadcast on the internet via live streaming using the same technology used for our live budget Q&A sessions. For more information about the live stream go to the 'Council Meetings' page at mapleridge.ca.



ENGAGED:

Thank You Maple Ridge

Voter Turnout Increases by Over Six Percent in 2014

Your new Council has taken the oath of office and their first regular meetings are scheduled for December 8 and 9 as noted on the schedule on this page. On November 15, 2014 16,828 local citizens cast a ballot in the Local Election. This represents 31.26% of eligible voters, and increase of over 4,700 people or 6% from 2011.

In this election we saw huge numbers coming to the City website at mapleridge.ca with between 25,000 and 30,000 visits to our special election pages. Over 10,000 people viewed the election results online, and our engagement on Facebook and Twitter showed similar numbers.

In the ads we asked local citizens to 'Be Engaged. Be A Voter' and we would like to thank those of you that responded to this campaign. Your new Council is busy with their orientation and mountains of reading in preparation for the four year term ahead of them. In the upcoming weeks and months we will be posting their official photos and biographies on the City website and providing contact information so we can continue this wonderful engagement. Thanks again Maple Ridge - you stepped up in 2014.

