

MEDIA ADVISORY

December 15, 2015

Mayor Jim Watson helps light the Caring Christmas Tree!

On Wednesday December 16th, join the staff of *the Caring and Sharing Exchange*, along with Mayor Jim Watson, city councillors and community members at the official lighting of the Caring Christmas Tree! Lights on this tree have been sold for the past month in order to fundraise for the Caring and Sharing Exchange's Christmas Exchange Program. This tree has been lit in stages as lights are purchased, and will be fully lit at this event.

The public is still encouraged to purchase lights after the lighting ceremony, leading up to Christmas Day. All of the funds raised will go directly towards providing food hampers or gift vouchers for Ottawa's individuals and families in need this holiday season.

The charity has received requests for assistance from more than 16,000 people in the Ottawa community, and **with only nine days until Christmas there are still more than 3,000 names on the waiting list.** Every light helps!

Where: The Caring Christmas Tree, Ottawa City Hall, next to the Sens Rink of Dreams

When: Wednesday, December 16th at 5:30 p.m.

Program 5:30 p.m. – Program Begins

Highlights: 5:39 p.m. – Mayor speaks

5:44 p.m. – Tree is lit by Mayor Jim Watson and Thom Bourne (of Nutrilawn)

Please help us light the tree!

If you would like to purchase a light, or even a string of lights, please visit www.donate.caringandsharing.ca. Lights are \$5 each, or \$25 for six, or \$100 for 25.

NEW THIS YEAR: Text to donate!

To purchase a light or a string of six lights, text TREE to 20222 to donate \$5 or \$25!

Tree lighting services generously provided by Christmas Décor by Nutrilawn.

Tree provided by Ottawa City Hall.

SPECIAL EVENT ADVISORY

The Christmas Exchange Program's Annual Corporate Hamper Packing Day

On Friday, December 18th at 9:00 a.m., the Caring and Sharing Exchange will begin packing and delivering 400 hampers to families in need with the help of community leaders, VIPs, corporate sponsors and volunteers.

A fully detailed event advisory will be issued on the morning of Thursday, December 17th, including program highlights and key speakers. **Please note: We do not require any more volunteers for this event.**

For further information:

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