

Pumpkins come marching home

Victoria News

By Rebecca Aldous - Victoria News

Published: April 08, 2009 5:00 PM

Updated: April 08, 2009 5:34 PM

[1 Comment](#)

After two years of uncertainty, 600 jack-o'-lanterns have found a home back in Victoria.

The Victoria Truth Centre has acquired the warehouse full of carved polyurethane pumpkin molds, the Pumpkin Art display that used to haunt Government House grounds on Halloween.

The event was invited to Government House in 2003, but as it grew and so did the house's slate of activities. The event was forced to move in 2007. Last year the Pumpkin Art display did a five city tour of Island communities.

"The new location is only a block and a half away from where it used to be," Pumpkin Art creator John Vickers said of Victoria Truth Centre's lawn at 1201 Fort St. "It's come back home."

In 1998, Vickers accidentally created the annual Halloween occasion on the front yard of his Bushy Street house.

Vickers carved celebrity and super hero faces into a few pumpkins and placed them on his lawn.

One night returning home from work, he found a throng of people gathered around his house viewing the jack-o'-lanterns. Police were there directing traffic.

"I remember thinking, 'What have I started?'" Vickers said.

His more than 50 displays takes two days to set up and have earned him invitations from around Canada, including a show at the Royal Ontario Museum.

Partial proceeds from the event are donated to charity.

This Halloween the money will go toward the Victoria Youth Clinic, a street level health and counselling services program.

"The pumpkins were a marvelous addition to the local community and we are quite excited to bring them back and host them right here in our Rockland neighbourhood," said Vickers.

raldous@vicnews.com

John:

Glad you found a new home for your Pumpkin Art displays. We enjoyed having them at the Vancouver Island Exhibition in Nanaimo the last two years and will be sorry not to see them again this year.

Good luck to The Victoria Truth Centre and happy haunting!