

Halloween Fun for the Whole Family in Oak Bay Village

Oak Bay Village is already getting into the spooky season with Halloween pumpkins lighting up the street poles along Oak Bay Avenue, Halloween decorations going up through the Village and preparations underway for Halloween celebrations.

The eighth annual **Pumpkin Art on the Avenue** is returning to Oak Bay Village October 26 to 31, 2018. Pumpkin Art is open 5 PM to 9 PM with closing time extended to 10 PM on Halloween. Admission to Pumpkin Art is by donation and is hosted in partnership with the Kiwanis Club of Oak Bay.

The event, located behind the Oak Bay Municipal Hall (2167 Oak Bay Avenue) is a spectacle of over 500 carved pumpkins featuring famous people, cartoon characters, Halloween themes and more. This year features more Halloween-themed pumpkins as well as several displays carved by youth groups in the community.

Oak Bay High students will be carving pumpkins for an Oak Bay High Student Council display, as will the Chatham District Girl Guides and students from Arc Academy of Inquiry.

On October 26 and 27, Theatre SKAM's **Pop Up Theatre** will present spooky stories at Pumpkin art on the Avenue. Look for the theatre next to the Pumpkin Art entrance. The short shows are free and suitable for the whole family.

Pumpkin Art donations support Oak Bay Volunteer Society and Threshold Housing Society. Oak Bay Volunteer Services Society provides direct volunteer services to Oak Bay residents on a one-to-one basis. Clients can be of any age, and are individuals in need of volunteer help because of health, financial or other needs. Threshold Housing Society helps at-risk youth attain independence and self-reliance through supportive transitional housing.

On October 31 Oak Bay Village holds **Trick or Treat on the Avenue** from 2 – 5 PM. Stores from Foul Bay Road to Monterey Avenue are open to welcome trick or treaters. Oak Bay Avenue is closed to vehicles from Wilmot Place to Monterey Avenue during the event. Businesses welcoming trick or treaters post a pumpkin poster in their window.

To create a carnival atmosphere a variety of street level entertainment will take place during Trick or Treat including stilt walkers, hula hoopers and jugglers. Arf the Dog will present live music throughout the event at the Hampshire and Oak Bay Avenue intersection.

Telus is sponsoring a photo booth while Canvas Community Church will have carnival style games for people to play.

The best dressed pets are invited to participate in the fourth annual Pet Costume Contest will be held at 4 PM on Oak Bay Avenue. Sign up at the costume contest tent and have your pet strut their stuff for the judges. There is also a pet trick or treat at businesses displaying a poster.

Oak Bay Library will be set up with a Halloween button-making station and will have candy for trick or treaters. Theatre SKAM's Pop Up Theatre will be open for Halloween storytelling from 3 PM to 5 PM.

Following the trick or treat the annual community bonfire will celebrate Halloween in Fireman's Park, next to the fire hall (1703 Monterey Avenue). The ceremonial lighting of the bonfire will take place at 6:00 pm. Children are invited to help manage the bonfire throughout the evening, with firefighter assistance, by spraying water onto the fire with a real fire hose. The Kiwanis children's costume parade will commence at 6:30. Hot dogs, pop, popcorn and candy are provided for children in costume courtesy of the Kiwanis Club of Oak Bay.

Pumpkin Art on the Avenue and Trick or Treat on the Avenue are presented by the businesses of Oak Bay Village through the Business Improvement Association. Additional details are posted at visitoakbayvillage.ca and on their Facebook page facebook.com/oakbaybia.

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