

Oak Bay Village Getting Ready for Annual Halloween Celebrations

October 13, 2017: Pumpkins are being installed on street poles, spooky scenes are appearing in stores and candy is being stockpiled in preparation for a variety of Halloween happenings in Oak Bay Village.

Beginning October 16, Halloween pumpkins will line the street poles on Oak Bay Avenue as a preview for **Pumpkin Art on the Avenue**, which returns to Oak Bay Village for the seventh time October 27 to 31, 2017.

The display, located behind the Oak Bay Municipal Hall (2167 Oak Bay Avenue) features over 500 carved pumpkins featuring faces, cartoon characters, Halloween themes and more. New this year, Oak Bay High students will be carving pumpkins for an Oak Bay High School display. 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. This year, donations support Oak Bay Sea Rescue's purchase of a new vessel. Oak Bay Sea Rescue is an organization of volunteers whose primary roles are saving lives on the water as well as promoting boating safety.

On Friday and Saturday, October 27 and 28, Theatre SKAM's Pop Up Theatre will be parked at Pumpkin Art on the Avenue presenting spooky and not-so-spooky stories. Presentations are free and suitable for the whole family.

From October 28 – 31 Oak Bay Village merchants compete in the **Merchant Carving Contest**. Stores carve pumpkins and place them in their windows in a display of pumpkin carving inspiration. Pumpkins are lit at night so they may be appreciated at any time. A list of participants will be posted at visitoakbayvillage.ca.

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 from Wilmot Place to Monterey Avenue. Participating businesses will 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.

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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