

## **Zombie Sighting Reported in Oak Bay Village Third Annual Pumpkin Art on the Avenue Expands**

*October 15, 2013*

Oak Bay Village is preparing to be an even scarier place this Halloween! Halloween pumpkins will be installed on streetlight poles along Oak Bay Avenue tomorrow to celebrate the Halloween season and to coincide with the season four premiere of *The Walking Dead* television series over the Thanksgiving weekend. When the third annual Pumpkin Art on the Avenue, opens October 25 behind the Oak Bay Municipal Hall, a new display will be unveiled – The Walking Dead, featuring key characters and the zombies that plague them. The new display joins the favourite displays composed of nearly 500 pumpkins.

“The popularity of The Walking Dead means the characters are almost universally recognizable, making it the perfect new Pumpkin Art display. Zombies and Halloween just go together,” says Tony Tucker, co-chair of the Halloween committee. “We have launched the new display with the key characters and we will add to it next year.”

Leading up to Halloween, pumpkins will be on display on lampposts along Oak Bay Avenue from Foul Bay Road to Monterey Avenue in the same way hanging flower baskets brighten the street during the summer. The pumpkins will be lit during the evenings.

Pumpkin Art, composed of almost 500 pumpkins carved by John Vickers, is located behind the Oak Bay Municipal Hall (2167 Oak Bay Avenue) and is open from 5pm to 9pm October 25 to 31. Favourite carvings including The Beatles, the Royal Family, Famous Canadians and a variety of cultural icons. There is also an Oak Bay display featuring Councillors and Oak Bay landmarks.

Admission is by donation to the Oak Bay Kiwanis. Funds support their Eliminate program, which is working to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus.

Oak Bay Village businesses will again take up the carving challenge for the second annual merchant carving contest. Carved pumpkins will be displayed in business windows from October 25 to October 31. Pumpkin enthusiasts can use their smart phone to vote for their favourite pumpkin window using the QR code on the poster or by visiting [www.visitoakbayvillage.ca](http://www.visitoakbayvillage.ca). Every vote is an entry to win a gift basket from Oak Bay Village stores. Also participating in the contest are Oak Bay Police, Oak Bay Fire Department and several members of Oak Bay Council. Each has a display in a shop window.

Oak Bay Village businesses will host a trick or treat from 2 pm to 5 pm on Wednesday, October 31. Participating businesses are identified by a pumpkin poster in their window. Trick or treat is followed by a Bonfire in Fireman’s Park, 1703 Monterey (next to the fire hall) at 6:00 p.m.

Pumpkin Art began in 1998 when John Vickers staged it on the front lawn of his Fairfield home. It was held on the grounds of Government House from 2003 to 2006, toured Vancouver Island and spent two years at the Victoria Truth Centre on Fort Street before coming to a permanent home in Oak Bay Village in 2011.

The businesses in Oak Bay Village host a variety of community events through the year including the Oak Bay Summer markets, the Oak Bay Christmas Light Up, the Oak Bay Gallery walk and Pumpkin Art on the Avenue. Information about Oak Bay Village is at [www.visitoakbayvillage.ca](http://www.visitoakbayvillage.ca).

Media contact:  
Heather Leary  
P: 250-385-2285  
C: 250-812-9159  
E: hleary@shaw.ca