

# TIPS FOR MAKING THE MOST OF HALLOWEEN

By Tanya Shukalova



**H**alloween is no longer just trick or treating in your local neighborhood. Over the past couple of decades, the annual “Spooky Day” has developed into so much more than just handing out candy. Although many people call it a “Holiday”, it is still just another day. This doesn’t stop millions of people in Canada, the USA, and in other countries from going all out to celebrate it, and in economic surveys people are spending as much on Halloween decorations and costumes as they do on Christmas decorations and lighting.

Just after Labour Day, and once all of the “back to school” hassle has ended, big box/ hardware/dollar stores, release all of their Halloween related items onto the store shelves. This prompts people to be entranced by the Halloween “spirit”, and start preparing for the festivities as early as a month or two in advance.

Michaels in Brockville has a large selection of craft products that people can make do-it-yourself spooky decorations with, while local Big Box stores/Hardware/Dollar stores have everything one needs to set up a dinner party, pick out costumes and stock up on candy. Some people even plan all year for October 31st with visions of pumpkin carving for little

ones, Halloween themed parties, pranks they will pull on their friends, as well as haunted houses they want to visit. People wait all year round to debut their carefully thought-out and customized costumes for the world.

An evening, once reserved for walking house to house reciting “trick or treat, smell my feet, give me something good to eat” has transformed into an elaborate event with never ending possibilities of festivities.

## 5 Tricks for the Perfect Halloween:

- 1 Your local Canadian Tire/ Home Depot/ Giant Tiger stores sell a variety of Halloween inflatable characters for yard décor.
- 2 The 1000 Islands Mall in Brockville hosts a trick or treat event for children and parents, with merchants handing out candy, as well as a Mall Halloween Parade.
- 3 Haunted hay rides are an entertaining family experience at the Spencerville Fair. (Just \$7/ person)
- 4 Local corn mazes and pumpkin patches are a great way to make some memories with friends and family
- 5 There are many tips online, on how to create a do-it-yourself Halloween costume, which can save money, help the

environment, as well as some fun activities to do with the young ones

## 5 Treats for Halloween:

- 1 Orange food colouring added to rice crispy balls with some chocolate chip eyes and a green sprout make for cute little edible pumpkins.
- 2 For the more health conscious treaters, tangerines with celery sticks as sprouts are also great pumpkin look-a-likes.
- 3 Upside down Reeses Peanut Butter Cups with pretzel sticks on the top make tasty, chocolaty broomsticks.
- 4 On the healthier side, half of a peeled banana with chocolate chips for eyes and a mouth make scary, delicious ghosts.
- 5 A treat the kids are sure to love would be to fill a cup with crumbled Oreo crackers (as dirt), mixed in with gummy worms and a cracker for a gravestone to top it off.

There are thousands of recipes to find on Halloween treats, and healthy alternatives. No matter your taste, there is fun to be had for everyone. Whether you love baking pumpkin pies for your family or doing crafts with children or grandchildren, maybe even dressing up and going out, Halloween is a day for people to express themselves.

For some, Halloween can be a creative way to dress up and be someone else for a night; a cat, police officer, or a favourite celebrity. A way to let loose and have fun before the cold of winter rolls in again. If you will be handing out candy, collecting candy or simply curled up watching horror movies, the important thing to remember on “All Hallows’ Eve” is to make sure your children are safe in whatever activity they are doing and to enjoy the experience. For the adults who wish to participate in parties behave responsibly and get home safe, so you can plan for next year’s celebration. **LH**

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