

Do It For Yourself

Create your own Halloween costume with the help of today's technology

Calling all witches, goblins and ghosts...Halloween, the scariest night of the year is just around the corner.

And this year the celebrations aren't only for kids. Everyone can get into the spirit with wacky costumes and eerie Halloween parties. To ensure that you win the prize for creativity this year, push the store-bought options aside and create your own Halloween favourites with your family. With the help of today's technology solutions and a little imagination, you can create party favours, decorations, and even costumes.

Here's how:

You won't want to send your little monsters out into the streets without an original costume of their own - and you'll get praises from your kids by helping them design a unique creation. With the aid of iron-on transfers, it's easy to make your own costume. Simply surf the Internet to find a really cool picture. Download the file and print. In moments, you can transform your tykes into just about anyone they want to be.

For added fun, why not dress up your kids' old plain treat bag. Again, using the iron-on transfers, it's easy to turn a boring pillowcase into a creepy, crawly candy bag. T-



Create the perfect costume at home using the right supplies.

shirt transfer papers that fit with inkjet printers can be purchased from your local computer or business supplies store. Hewlett-Packard offers T-shirt Transfer Papers that are easy to use and are

much more affordable than silk screening.

Hosting your very own 'monster mash' party is easy and inexpensive when you create your own banners, posters, and invitations. Buy some haunted music, hang cobwebs and add some dry ice to complete the eerie effect.

Of course, no haunted house would be complete without some scary decorations. To create your own invitations, posters or banners, you need a word processing or desktop publishing program. Find scary photos and cartoon characters on the Internet, add them to your document and print them on your colour printer.

Some computer manufacturers offer holiday print-project suggestions, including step-by-step instructions on how to create print projects. Hewlett-Packard Web site www.printsville.com, for example, has a slew of ready-to-print hanging decorations, haunted house banners and creepy pop-up-boxes that are guaranteed to freak trick-or-treaters.

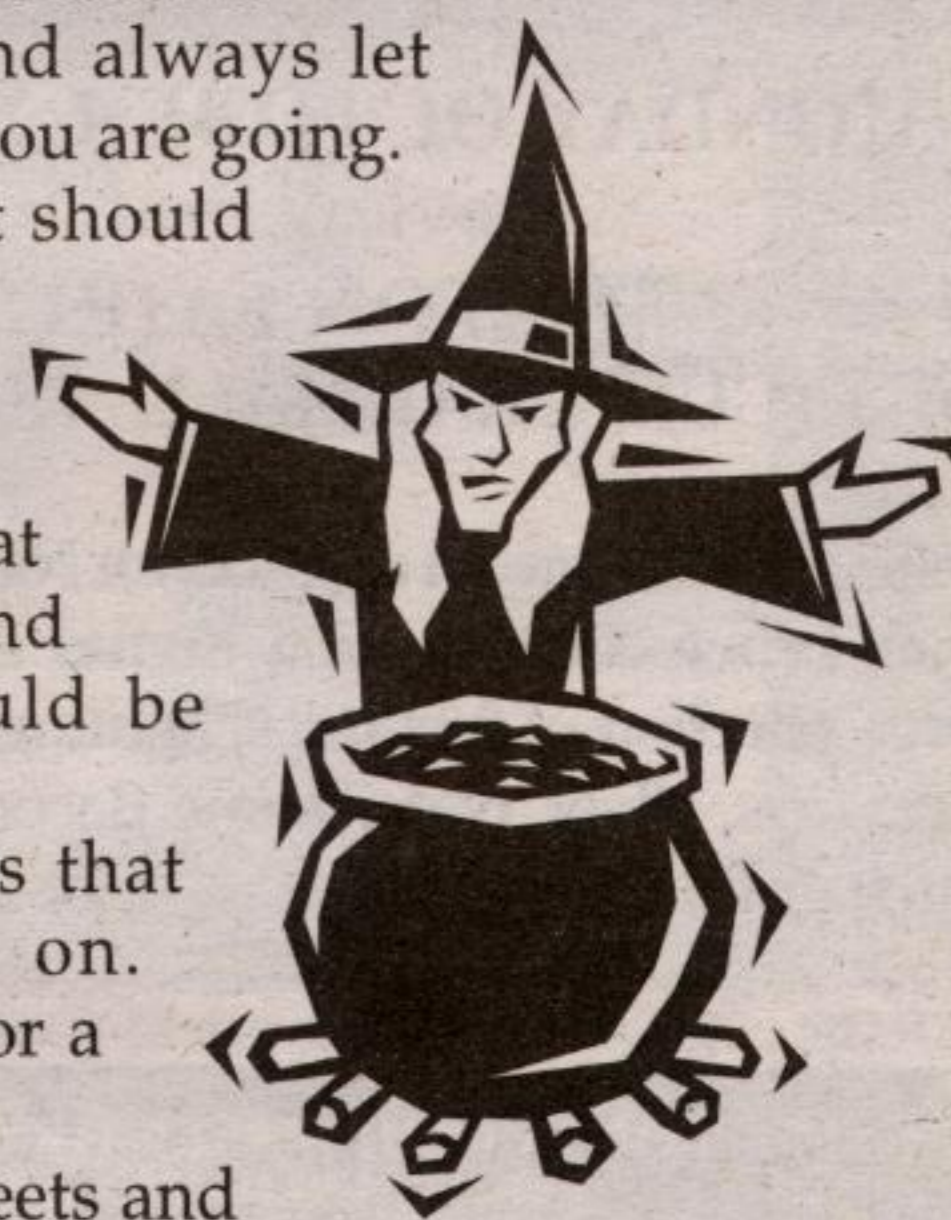
With a little creativity, it's easy to turn this Halloween and other festive celebrations into fun and memorable events.

—By Anthony Faga, News Canada

Follow these safety tips on Halloween night

To ensure a safe and happy Halloween for area children Halton Regional Police offer several safety tips.

- When picking out a costume it should be bright and reflective and short enough that you don't trip on it.
- Masks can limit or block eyesight, consideration should be given to using non-toxic makeup and decorative hats as a safer alternative.
- Use flashlights and ensure they have fresh batteries, both for the kids and escorts.
- Stay in groups and always let someone know where you are going.
- A parent or adult should escort smaller children.
- Older children should let their parents know the route that they will be taking and set a time they should be back.
- Only go to homes that have a porch light on. Never go into a home or a car to get a treat.
- Stay on well lit streets and never cut across lawns or use alleys.
- Stay on sidewalks and if there are no sidewalks walk on the farthest edge of the roadway facing traffic.
- Don't assume that if one vehicle stops for you that all the others will, sometimes motorists have trouble seeing trick-or-treaters.
- Don't eat any treat until they have been thoroughly checked by parents or an adult. Try and have the children eat a good meal before they go out as this will help to deter them from snacking.
- Obstacles should be removed from lawns and steps to prevent children from being injured.



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