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Trick-or-treaters will be back at events across Whitchurch-Stouffville starting this weekend.

COMING UP: Halloween events at leisure centre, safety village

Train, Main St. getting their haunt on

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Troll Main Street for candy, ride the spooky rails, dare to enter the haunted house and make a Halloween-themed art project.

Those are just some of the activities taking place in celebration of the spookiest night of all — Halloween.

Halloween-themed train rides on the York Durham Heritage Railway start this Saturday. They also run Oct. 29 at the same times.

Trains will depart Uxbridge station at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. for a 90-minute ride to the line's summit in Goodwood.

Children up to age 12 dressed in their best Halloween costumes get to ride for free. There is a maximum of two children per adult. Fares are otherwise \$16 (adults), \$14 (seniors and teens), \$11 (children not in costume) and \$48 for a family of two adults with a maximum of three children.

Round trips between Uxbridge and Stouffville will also take place Oct. 23 and 30 at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. both days.

Trains depart at noon from the Stouffville station on Main Street for the round-trip.

Fees are \$23 (adults), \$21 (seniors and teens), \$15 (children not in costume) and \$68 for a family of two adults with a maximum of three children.

The decorated trains will also feature musicians, a magician and clown. Snack

service will be available. Children will receive a loot bag.

The best costume will receive a prize.

Safe, indoor celebration

A haunted house, fortune teller, face painting and henna tattoos are all part of this year's haunted house at the Lebovic Leisure Centre.

The Oct. 28 event runs from 6 to 7:30 p.m. for kids three to eight years old and is presented by the Mayor's Youth Council.

"It's great for new residents and new Canadians who (don't) want to send their kids out for Halloween. It's a safe way to celebrate," said Micole Ongman, manager of recreation for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Strut your costume downtown

You can let Superman, Sponge Bob and the pirates and princesses sleep in their costumes because the next morning the town is once again holding its annual Downtown Hunt for Candy Oct. 29.

Starting at 10 a.m. and then every hour on the hour until 1 p.m., kids and parents will leave from the Main Street GO station and be led on a walking tour of downtown, where about 30 merchants will hand out treats for tricks.

Last year, about 500 parents and kids participated, according to Anna Rose, downtown co-ordinator for the Town of

Whitchurch-Stouffville.

"It's a nice family outing together," she said. "Moms and dads can dress up, too."

Ensure you dress for the weather as the walk will take place rain, shine or snow.

One of the tour stops is Latcham Gallery, where kids will be given a Halloween-themed art project to take home and complete.

The gallery is also hosting its free family art day Oct. 29, which runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Donations go to food bank

Once you are done with the Downtown Hunt for Candy, you can head over to Halloween in the Village, which is hosted by the York Regional Police in its safety village. It is located inside Bruce's Mill Conservation Area on Stouffville Road.

The event runs from 1 to 6 p.m. and includes trick or treating with police officers in the safety village, haunted house, games and safety tips.

Admission is by donation to the York Region Food Bank Network.

To kick off the scariest time of the year, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library is holding its annual Halloween Party tomorrow for kids ages seven to 12.

The event is sold out.

For more information go to www.ydhr.ca, www.townofws.com, www.yrp.ca and www.latchamgallery.ca

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