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Haunt in the Park 2025 brings scares to the community

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LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

For those with a love of scares and those with the stomach for it, the Little Family's annual Haunt in the Park is once again looking to distribute frights in 2025.

Hosted as always by the Little family, the event is free for everyone to attend, and they ask for donations for the local food bank. For years, the Haunt has provided much-needed donations of non-perishables and financial support to the Shelburne Food Bank.

Carola Little, an organizer of the annual event, said that no matter the size, accessibility will always remain a core component of the Haunt.

?The Little family has been putting on the Haunt in Shelburne for 32 years, and we started off very small,? she said. ?But we've expanded a lot over the years, and since 2015, we've been at Fiddle Park. We've kept it free for the past three decades, so that anybody could enjoy it without prejudice. It's fully accessible for wheelchairs and strollers as well.?

The space is massive for a local haunted house this year. Hosted at KTH Shelburne Manufacturing for the first time, while Fiddle Park undergoes redevelopment, the space is 6,000 square feet. Little said that they've made quick use of the space.

?It's 6,000 square feet, and we've filled it up with about 60 volunteers as live actors spread throughout the building,? she said. ?There's a lot to see, and we've prepared plenty of easter eggs for people to enjoy. We've got Fallout, for fans of the games or the show, we have Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Seville, and of course, we pay homage to the classic 80s horror movies, the beloved classics.?

Little said that while all of this remains free for the public to enjoy, they encourage visitors to bring donations to the food bank, which the Haunt supports every year.

Last year, the event raised 300 pounds of food and $2,500 in financial support, which helped the Shelburne Food Bank bridge the gap when it's busiest ? between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

?They have been great supporters of ours for years; they absolutely love what we do,? Little said. ?We have been supporting the food bank for I think 20 years now, and we have no intentions of stopping. We love having that community spirit. We even have our logo on their van.?

The Haunt will be running next week as well, with the penultimate night being Halloween. Little is encouraging everyone to come early to ensure they have a chance to go through, as last year, the turnout was so massive that they had to turn visitors away. Should the frights become a little too much to handle, the Haunt has plenty of extra exits available.

For more information on Haunt in the Park, visit hauntinthepark.com.