

Bouckville, NY - Over 150 people attended the Halloween Happenin' on Oct. 22, 2011 in Bouckville to see how brave they were on the haunted, dark and spooky Chenango Canal Towpath Trail. People stood in line to go down the stairs in groups (there's safety in numbers!) and be guided by a hooded host. Flashlights, donated by the Colgate Bookstore, were held tightly by kids who had won them as prizes for completing the popular Clues Hunt.



Diane van Slyke – CCA President

For the smaller children, hand-painted fairy tale figures stood between lit-up ghosts and pumpkin totem poles near the

Cottage Museum on Canal Road and State Route 20. Winners of the costume contest were for the Prettiest: Molly Eastman, Madison; Most Original: Paige Rollins, Bouckville; Scariest: Amanda and Gage Salton, Madison and Nicole and Joshua Camp, Bouckville; Most Unusual: Maria and Kyle Peavey, Eaton; and Best Hero: Kaleb Dodd, Madison. All received ribbons.

A Scooby Doo Halloween movie showed in the brand-new basement of the cottage and a friendly witch handed out prizes upstairs. Games covered the deck and Dunkin Donuts and Price Chopper provided the refreshments in the food tent.

The most spectacular part was the trees all wound with holiday lights, thanks to the hard work of students from Hamilton College; and Clean Water Coalition and COVE from Colgate University. The lights, all donated from COVE, Kinney Drugs and friends of the Chenango Canal Association, will be left on until the first weekend in November.

“It was a tremendous amount of work to plan and display all this,” said Diane Van Slyke, co-chair of the event. “If it weren’t for Dode Page who planned and prepared the haunted trail walk and supportive CCA members who rolled up their sleeves to set it up, this couldn’t have been pulled off.”

The Chenango Canal Association received donations for the event from several CCA members plus donations from the public who attended the event. Madison Central School printed and handed out flyers and recruited several students to volunteer while the shop class made supports for the wooden cut-out figures. At the event, friends of the canal volunteered to run the games, prizes and movie. But those who were assigned to do the haunting arrived to find no one was needed - so just who was it on the trail that dark night???

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