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Cheryl Veary hopes to light 300 pumpkins by Halloween night as part of her annual fundraiser, Fiery Faces, on display now at 6113 Brigden Sideroad.

# Fiery Faces return

TARA HAGAN  
The Observer

Cheryl Veary's kitchen gets a little chaotic this time of year.

Inside, the Sarnia resident and a small handful of friends are cutting, scooping, and carving pumpkins well into the night.

"We're getting better at it," says Veary. "It only takes about 15 minutes for each one."

"I don't know about that," her friend Maureen Murphy adds, with a laugh. "It's more like 20."

With pumpkin goop piling up on the table, Veary cranks up the music, passes around some Halloween cookies, and finishes up the next masterpiece.

"It's almost time," she says.

The group heads outside to



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light up a fresh batch of carved pumpkins just in time for sunset.

"Our goal is to have 300 pumpkins carved by Halloween night," said Veary, founder of the "Fiery Faces" fundraiser.

By Thursday morning, they reached 57 and counting.

"You get hooked," she said.

Each year, Veary lights up her 6113 Brigden Sideroad yard with dozens of pumpkins, creating a spectacular Halloween sight for passing motorists.

Residents are invited to drop off donations, with all proceeds

going to support a local charity.

So far, they've raised nearly \$700.

"Last year we raised \$800 for the Women's Interval Home," said Veary.

With a goal of \$2,000 this year, proceeds will go to the Breakfast Program at Alexander Mackenzie Secondary School.

A number of businesses have caught on as well — for a minimum \$20 donation, Veary will carve their company logo and light it up each night.

"We try to get those ones done as quick as we can," said Veary, who sends photos of the finished product to each business. A large picnic table is already full of pumpkin logos ranging

from Bluewater Health, to Limbo Lounge, to Cheeky Monkey.

This year, Veary will also host a Family Fun Day, along with students from Alexander Mackenzie from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. The event, held at her Brigden Sideroad property, will include pumpkin carving, games and activities, face-painting, snacks and more.

"It's just kind of fun, and kooky," said Veary, who has been in love with Halloween since she was a kid. "And that's what it should be."

For more information visit <http://www.cherylsadded-touches.com/events-FFF2009.html>

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