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Witches walk, market blend community, charity and a touch of magic

Event raises funds, awareness for Kingston Interval House



The Cauldron Sisters of Greater Napanee lead a crowd in a synchronized dance at the Kingston Witches Walk at Skeleton Park in Kingston on Friday, Oct. 9, 2026. (Photo by Bill Hall/The Kingston Whig-Standard/Postmedia Network) (Bill Hall / The Kingston Whig-Standard)

By **Bill Hall**

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Hundreds of witches, wizards and other magical beings gathered in Kingston's Skeleton Park on Friday evening as the annual Kingston Witches Walk returned for a fourth year of costumes, community spirit and fundraising for a local charity.

Dressed in flowing black cloaks, pointed hats and sparkling lights and glitter, participants assembled in Skeleton Park before making their way through downtown toward the waterfront.

The event, inspired by similar celebrations in other communities, has grown from a small, grassroots gathering into a popular autumn tradition.

"The Kingston Witches Walk is an opportunity for everyone to come together, raise spirits and raise funds for a local charity," organizer Tyffanie Morgan said before the walk began. "This year, we're supporting Interval House. They were our charity last year as well."

Morgan, a drag performer, arts advocate and one of the event's self-described "supreme witches," said the walk began after she saw similar events taking place elsewhere.

"It all started four years ago," Morgan said. "I had the idea because I saw other communities doing similar events and wondered if it was something we could do in Kingston."

The evening began with a choreographed dance led by the Cauldron Sisters before organizers invited representatives from Interval House to address the crowd. Participants then joined in the event's traditional spell-casting ceremony before setting out on the walk.



Supreme Witch and local drag performer Tyffanie Morgan gets ready to board the Kingston Ghost & Mystery Trolley, an added feature at this year's Kingston Witches Walk at Skeleton Park in Kingston on Friday, Oct. 9, 2026. (Photo by Bill Hall/The Kingston Whig-Standard/Postmedia Network) Bill Hall / The Kingston Whig-Standard

"We always cast a spell with intentions for the evening before we head out," Morgan said. "We won't be running amok, but we will be taking over the streets for the walk."

For the first time, organizers also partnered with Kingston Trolley Tours' Ghost and Mystery Trolley, allowing participants who preferred not to walk the entire route to take part in the festivities.

The event's benefactor, Kingston Interval House, provides shelter, outreach services and supportive housing for women, children and youth experiencing violence. Last year marked the organization's 50th anniversary.

Brooke Phillips, community services and fund development manager with Interval House, said the organization began as a grassroots response to a lack of safe options for women fleeing violence and has expanded significantly over the decades.

“We’re one of those community organizations that you wish didn’t have to exist,” Phillips said. “Everybody who has worked in this field has spent their career trying to put themselves out of a job, and we haven’t been successful because the need remains.”



Community services and fund development manager Brooke Phillips and women’s residential counsellor Emily Feuerstake for Interval House take donations and inform attendees about the cause at the Kingston Witches Walk at Skeleton Park in Kingston on Friday, Oct. 9, 2026. (Photo by Bill Hall/The Kingston Whig-Standard/Postmedia Network) Bill Hall / The Kingston Whig-Standard

Today, the organization operates emergency shelter services, community programming and Robin’s Hope, a second-stage housing program that helps women transition to independent living after leaving shelter.

“The program provides a next step for women leaving shelter who still need support and stable housing as they move toward independence,” Phillips said.

She said one of the organization’s most important messages is that support is always available.

“We want women, including women in more remote communities, to be able to find us, reach out and know that we’re there 24 hours a day, seven days a week,” Phillips said. “We’re here on Christmas Day. We’re here on Thanksgiving. We’re here every day because domestic violence doesn’t take time off.”



From left to right, Tracey Kawamoto, Kelly Kennedy, Megan Lamarre and Jane Albert at the Kingston Witches Walk in Skeleton Park in Kingston on Friday, Oct. 9, 2026. They call themselves The Bath Coven, an unofficial subsidiary of The Cauldron Sisters of Greater Napanee. (Photo by Bill Hall/The Kingston Whig-Standard/Postmedia Network) Bill Hall / The Kingston Whig-Standard

Festivities continued Saturday at the Broom Factory, where the accompanying Witch Market drew visitors to browse handmade crafts, artwork, jewelry,

spiritual services and other themed offerings.

The market has become a growing attraction in its own right. Organizers launched a spring edition for the first time this year after strong demand from vendors and visitors.

“It’s grown quite popular, so we added another one in May,” Morgan said. “It went so well we just booked for next May.”



The Guilded Witch of Bath, Jane Albert, displays her collection of handmade witch hats at the Witches Market at the Broom Factory in Kingston on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026. (Photo by Bill Hall/The Kingston Whig-Standard/Postmedia Network) Bill Hall / The Kingston Whig-Standard

Among the vendors was Kingston-area psychic medium Jasmine Finlay, whose booth featured tarot readings, aura readings, hydromancy sessions and watercolour paintings she creates as part of her practice.

Finlay laughed when asked how she would describe herself.

“A Jill of all trades,” she said.

She explained that her work has expanded steadily during the six years she has operated professionally, evolving beyond tarot into a variety of spiritual practices.

One of those is hydromancy, a form of water scrying in which she interprets images and symbols seen in a bowl of water.

“Images, messages from loved ones who have passed, spirit guides, or symbols can come through the water,” Finlay said. “I tell people what I see.”

She also offers aura readings, describing different colours as representing various qualities and emotions. Yellow, she said, is often associated with intelligence and intuition, while green represents healing and love.

Finlay said she learned much of her craft from her mother, who taught her until she was 18 years old.

After her mother’s death, she said, her abilities seemed to intensify.

“They became stronger. More amplified,” Finlay said. “It was almost as if I couldn’t turn them off anymore.”



Psychic medium Jasmine Finlay sits with her watercolour paintings at the Witches Market at the Broom Factory in Kingston on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026. (Photo by Bill Hall/The Kingston Whig-Standard/Postmedia Network) Bill Hall / The Kingston Whig-Standard

The market remained busy throughout the day as visitors moved from vendor to vendor, seeking everything from handcrafted gifts to spiritual guidance.

For Morgan, however, the weekend was less about spells and crystal balls and more about the sense of community they foster.

Late Sunday afternoon, she reported that the walk and market were a great success, with approximately 300 souls attending the walk on Friday and over 1,100 visitors visiting the market on Saturday.

“We’re still counting the donations for Kingston Interval House,” she said, thanking the participants.

Bill Hall

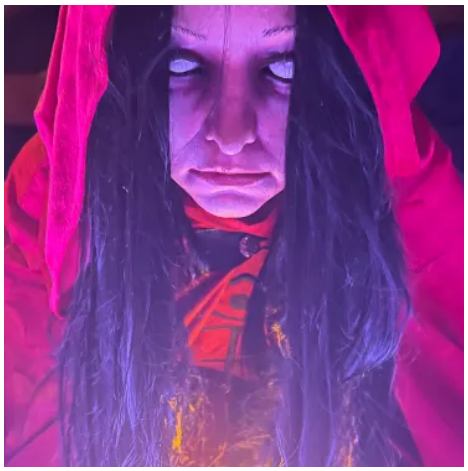
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