

The Witches' Gathering



www.witches-gathering.com

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Ottawa's Witches' Unite for the 13th Annual Witches' Gathering Charity Ball

Ottawa, Ontario – October 11th, 2011 – Ottawa's Pagan community comes together for the 13th consecutive year to celebrate the festival of Samhain with a charity costume ball. The Annual Witches' Gathering Charity Ball will take place at **Maverick's and Café Dekcuf** on **Saturday, October 29, 2011**. The doors open at 7:00pm followed by a Wiccan ritual, open to the public, at 8pm. Afterwards music, dancing and costume contests will begin.

Over the past 12 years, the Witches' Gathering has donated thousands of dollars to Ottawa charities and non-profit institutions such as CHEO, the Ottawa Food Bank, the Ottawa Public Library and the Canadian Blood Services.

This year the charity is one that is very close to the Pagan community. Kaelie Coombe, an 8 year old Ottawa girl, is suffering from cystic fibrosis. The proceeds from this years Gathering will be donated to assist the Kaelie and her family.

“The Gathering is a very important event for Ottawa's Pagans,” says High Priestess Michelle Hrynyk, who will be leading the ritual at the Gathering. “Many Pagans don't feel comfortable practicing their religion openly. As a result, it can be hard to find people to connect with. The Witches' Gathering is an opportunity for Pagans to come together to worship openly. It builds a sense of community.”

Sponsors of this year's Witches' Gathering include:

- Bridgehead
- National Gallery of Canada
- Canadian Museum of Nature
- Ravens Knoll
- Take Charge Teas
- Partizen
- Darner Media
- And many other generous sponsors

As Always We Welcome the Public to Join in the Festivities

For more information contact:

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In support of an Ottawa family living with Cystic Fibrosis

Meet Kaelie Coombe, a bright and artistic little girl in our community who lives with a difficult form of cystic fibrosis. This condition requires hospital stays each year to clean out her system with IV antibiotics. Each day three hours are spent doing physical therapy, breathing into a ventilator, preparing and cleaning her feeding tube. In order for Kaelie to absorb her food she must take up to 20 pills a day of artificial enzymes with each meal and snack. There is no cure for cystic fibrosis, but new treatments are allowing children to live well into their teens, twenties and sometimes beyond.



Kaelie is parented by a single mother so there is not often room for the little extras. Much time is taken off work for regular trips to CHEO and caring for her when she is ill. Proceeds raised from this years 13th Annual Witches' Gathering will go to support Kaelie and her mother for the purchase of a massage table and aids to make day to day life a little bit easier.

Last year was a particularly rough winter and school was deemed too risky an activity to continue full time. Kaelie, now 8, has returned to grade 3 this year and is happy to be back with her friends.

About Cystic fibrosis (CF): This is the most common, fatal genetic disease affecting young Canadians. It mostly affects the lungs and digestive system, causing severe breathing problems and restricting the body's ability to absorb nutrients.

For more information on cystic fibrosis please visit www.cysticfibrosis.ca

About Paganism:

The term “Pagan” refers to followers of modern religious practices inspired by, or based upon pre-Christian traditions. Various forms of Paganism practiced in the Ottawa region include Wicca (Witchcraft), Druidry, and Asatru (the worship of Germanic/Norse deities).

About Samhain:

Samhain (pronounced Sow-in) marks the Celtic new year, and is one of the eight Sabbats, or festivals celebrated in the Pagan Wheel of the Year. Samhain marks the last harvest, and the beginning of the descent into winter. It is a time to reflect on death and endings, and to celebrate the lives of friends and relatives who have passed on before us. Pagans believe that the veil between our world of the living and the Otherworld of the dead are thin at Samhain, and departed spirits can pass between these worlds. It is a magical night, when the usual laws of time and space are temporarily suspended.



**THE 13TH ANNUAL
WITCHES GATHERING
CHARITY BALL**

**OCTOBER 29TH, 2011
AT
MAVERICKS & CAFE DEKCUF
221 RIDEAU STREET**

**THE 2011 THEME
DEMONS, DAEMONS & FOOLS**

**DOORS OPEN 7PM - PUBLIC RITUAL 8PM TO 9PM
COSTUME CONTESTS, DANCING, LIBATIONS & MORE**

\$15 IN ADVANCE - \$20 AT THE DOOR

**GO TO
WWW.WITCHES-GATHERING.COM
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
THE 2011 CHARITY**

