

Haunted House Raises Thousands for Community

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(L-R) Assistatn Executive Director Linda Rideout and Executive Director Christa Daku accepted a \$5,000 cheque on behalf of Envision from Ernie and Ammie Parisien Friday, which they raised putting on Mayhem Manor (photo by Jennifer LaCharite).

Having its most successful year yet, Mayhem Manor raised over \$10,000 during its five-day run leading up to Halloween. The haunted house had more than 1,200 people come through its doors, which was in a new location this year.

On Friday, organizers of Mayhem Manor, the Parisien family, gave \$5,000 to Envision Counselling and Support Centre. Organizer Ernie Parisien said they decided to make a donation to Envision after hearing their plea for funding at a recent City Council meeting.

"They put out a plea that they are needing funding and that is just something that is greatly used and needed in the city," explained Parisien. "The City tabled it for whatever their reasons were, budgeting and stuff like that, but I figured I can do something now, I'm going to do it."

He said they also gave \$500 to the Kailynn Bursic-Panchuk scholarship fund and are planning some anonymous donations as well. Some of the money raised will go towards operation costs.

Parisien said they did less with more this year, having only 36 volunteers play ghastly roles in the haunted house. Last year they had about 50 volunteer actors.

"We were just able to stage them around better and used a lot of hidden walls and that to get people to the other sides so you wouldn't know that they were there."

Although this was the fifth year the Parisien family put on the haunted house event for the public, this was the second year it was referred to as Mayhem Manor, as the event grew from just the Parisien family (Parisien Pack) home to larger venues. This year the haunted house almost didn't happen as organizers were unable to find a suitable location. Parisien said they were assisted by Mayor Marcel Roy in finding a location this year, which was loaned to them by Total Oilfield. Parisien said they are 95 percent certain about next year's location.