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**coast to coast \* all the best**



**Thomas FX**

So spooky it's often mistaken for a haunted house with its cackling witches and bubbly cauldrons, Thomas FX even boasts a "Dark Zone" of scary props, animatronics and startling surprises so you can host the scariest party on the block. The store's a fave with film-set stylists, but no need to be a seasoned professional; Thomas FX sells all the accessories you'll need – skeleton bones, zombie intestines and bloody bandages – to create a gory one-of-a-kind costume that's sure to impress.

140 RIVERSIDE DR. W., NORTH VANCOUVER. 604-929-5455; THOMASFX.COM

is a local pillar: They provide pioneer costumes for elementary-school field trips and design costumes for summer theatre in the park. At Halloween, Pandora's is known for its personal service – it's run by a pack of costume-obsessed women – including costume alterations. Amidst homemade rentable ensembles in all sizes is non-toxic, child-friendly makeup and accessories from animal ears to vampire teeth colourful tights.

753 VICTORIA ST.,  
KAMLOOPS. 250 374-7735;  
PANDORASCOSTUMEBOX.COM

**VICTORIA COSTUMES**  
Owner Charlotte Rennison practises what she preaches: When she's not making sure her more than 3,000 rentable costumes are in order, she's a celebrity impersonator, imitating the likes of Cinderella, Marilyn Monroe and Lady Gaga at parties all over the island. Year-round, the store provides costumed characters for singing telegrams, marriage proposals and retirement parties. This year brings Dark Knight and Joker ensembles

that are so real they've landed on local TV stations.

7060 WEST SAANICH RD.,  
BRENTWOOD BAY.  
778-426-0781;  
VICTORIACOSTUMES.COM

**ALBERTA**  
**CUSTOM COSTUMES**  
More than a store, Custom Costumes is a Halloween experience. You'll know you're having one by the 10-foot animated Frankenstein (he goes by "Franky"), deli counter display full of faux gruesome body parts and a looming (animated) zombie attack. Amidst the scary surroundings, however, are some seriously cute costumes like M&M's and oversized crayons.

SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER:  
3803 CALGARY TRAIL,  
EDMONTON.  
780-467-3738;  
CUSTOMCOSTUMES.CA

**THE STORE UPSTAIRS**  
Just 15 minutes north of Calgary, you'll find one of the province's largest collections of Halloween costumes, wigs and accessories. Among the year-round costume collection, your little princess

will find the perfect gown, locks and tiara to complete her royal outfit. The team searches for manufacturers both local and abroad to find unique pieces; ever consider dressing as a cockroach or armadillo? Didn't think so! They also carry costumes ranging from theatrical garb to pet outfits. (Imagine how cute Spot will look dressed like Darth Vader.)

209 CENTRE AVE., AIRDRIE.  
403-948-0010;  
THESTOREUPSTAIRS.COM

**DON'S HOBBY SHOP & THEATRICAL SUPPLIES**  
Satisfying all your hobby and dress-up needs since 1949, Don's Hobby Shop offers more than the regular face paint, makeup, costumes, wigs, hats, magic tricks and toys: Expert-taught makeup classes offered eight times a year. Learn professional tricks in selected themes like aging, fantasy and beauty, trauma and, of course, zombie. Kids' costumes include everything from baby Captain Kirk to a teenage twist on a classic fairytale character: Li'l Miss Red.

TWO LOCATIONS, CALGARY.  
403 262-5717;  
DONSHOBBYSHOPCA