

Downtown Galt zombie walk accentuated by frigid mid-fall downpour

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Holy Bolotovskiy walks en pointe as a zombie ballerina towards a motorist during the annual zombie walk in the downtown Galt area of Cambridge on Saturday. - David Bebee , Waterloo Region Record

Had you happened upon the scene without prior knowledge, you might have assumed downtown Galt had been overtaken by the living dead.

Down Ainslie Street they tromped, bug-eyed and bedraggled, toward Monigram Coffee Roasters, on their annual Thriller Zombie Walk.

Not just any zombies, mind you — Michael Jackson zombies, plodding and dragging through sheets of rain as passersby gaped in shock, horror, and for those aware Halloween was only a few days away, grinning acknowledgement.

"It was shocking," noted Cory Lipsitt, after the cabal of ghoulish grandstanders returned to the Cambridge Farmers' Market parking lot to mimic the dance from Jackson's "Thriller" video as the song boomed from loudspeakers. "I was scared."

Was he really scared?

Lipsitt, clearly, was being tongue-in-cheek. Because once the ghoulish grandstanders began lurching and swaying in syncopated rhythm to Jackson's rhythmic yelps, even the most impressionable toddler would have recognized the song that launched a thousand fan tributes.

"I love dancing, I love Michael Jackson and I love zombies!" noted Jessica Zehr, a red leather Jackson clone whose dance moves verged on apocalyptic.

She was one of more than 20 students and community members choreographed by Autumn Fernandes of the ONE Movement Dance Centre, who took the moves from Jackson's iconic video, slowed them down and set them loose on a frigid, rain-splattered Saturday morning.

Cold doesn't begin to describe this midfall downpour, which saw regenerated zombies lurching and swaying with supernatural aplomb, oblivious to the weather.

"When you're dancing, you don't realize it's cold and raining," noted Fernandes, shivering with her zombie troupe after the fact.

"We've been doing this for seven years. The only thing that would have stopped us would have been thunder and lightning."



Participants in the annual zombie walk in the downtown Galt area of Cambridge perform the Thriller dance outside Monigram. - David Bebee , Waterloo Region Record



Zombies swarm a stopped vehicle during the annual zombie walk. - David Bebee , Waterloo Region Record



Participants in the annual zombie walk in the downtown Galt area of Cambridge perform the Thriller dance outside the Cambridge Market on Saturday. - David Bebee , Waterloo Region Record



Participants in the annual zombie walk in the downtown Galt area of Cambridge wait to cross the street. - David Bebee , Waterloo Region Record



Holy Bolotovskiy has her make up adjusted by her mother Nicole. - David Bebee , Waterloo Region Record



Participants in the annual zombie walk make their way down Ainslie St. - David Bebee , Waterloo Region Record



Participants in the annual zombie walk in the downtown Galt area of Cambridge. - David Bebee , Waterloo Region Record



Participants in the annual zombie walk in the downtown Galt area of Cambridge wait to cross Main St., Saturday. - David Bebee , Waterloo Region Record