

A DURHAM

GHOST STORY

LURKING IN THE SHADOWS, IN CORNERS OF ROOMS,
UNDER THE STAIRS AND ON DARK COUNTRY ROADS,
DURHAM IS ALIVE WITH THE AFTERLIFE.

by Paul Silliphant and AntiChris

Ghost Road

Port Perry, Ontario

For decades people have been reporting strange and inexplicable phenomena on 'ghost road'. The most common of these is a mysterious white 'light' (the headlight of a motorcycle according to legend) and a smaller red 'light' (the taillight) that can be observed on the occasional evening. Other anomalous phenomena include the sighting of 'ghostly beings', cars being pulled forward and backwards, electrical anomalies, batteries draining and equipment (i.e: cameras) malfunctioning, ufos, strange sounds, and other assorted odd occurrences.

The legend goes that in or around 1968, a young man was testing the limits of a motorcycle on an old concession road on Scugog Island. He was on a straightaway pushing the engine as fast as he could. The road is short and he soon realized he was running out of space to stop and heading



far too fast towards the spot where the road meets the 9th Concession. About 100 meters from the south end near a large tree, he lost control, plowed into a field, caught himself on an old rusty barbed-wire fence and was decapitated. Now the next morning his body was found and the authorities called. They removed the body from the scene and began looking about for the head, which until this day has not been found.

So now it is rumoured that the ghost of this unknown man continues to walk, or ride, Ghost Road in search of his missing head. A bright light speeding down the road from the north (some witnesses have been reported the light passing them) before careening out of control and going into the field. Phantom sounds of a motorcycle sometimes accompany the light. On the rare occasion the apparition of a young man has been seen in the field near the supposed crash site.

The Regent Theatre

Oshawa

The Regent Theatre in Oshawa opened in 1919 showing vaudeville acts and motion pictures. It survived for many years as a movie theatre, before eventually closing and being converted to a nightclub.

In the 1970's an employee killed himself in the theater. There have been many sightings of a dark shadowed figure walking around the theater, also very cold temperatures in the upstairs of the theater. The basement has a very heavy and unwelcoming feel to it.

Centennial Building

Whitby

The Centennial Building was built in the early 1850s as the Ontario County Courthouse. The courthouse presently houses the Whitby Courthouse Theatre, a banquet facility, local archives and is used by community organizations. Whitby's former courthouse (and now the Centennial Building,) has ghosts of many shapes and appearances. One story tells of a large black dog that transforms into a tall man with burning red eyes.

Workers still claim to see "Shadow People" in the Hallways and lights have been reported to go on and off by themselves as well as the apparition of a man who fell to his death from the balcony of the Court to a chair below has been seen descending from the balcony of the old courtroom.

Henry House

Oshawa

Thomas Henry, a minister in early Port Oshawa, moved his family in 1850 to this house. Henry died in 1879 but the house remained in the family until 1920 when it was sold to R. Samuel and George McLaughlin. Located in Lakeview Park in Oshawa, this building now belongs to the Oshawa Community Museum and Archives.

People have reported seeing figures in the windows peering out, laughter, as well as lights turning on and off by themselves.

When the Henry house was investigated by a paranormal investigator, spirits of a man and female were felt in the basement and in the study. Many orbs were found as well as a vortex in the basement that may explain the paranormal presence.

650 Simcoe Street North

Oshawa

An old farmhouse was built on to, in order to create apartment units at this location. The original farmhouse apartment, complete with old creaky wood floors, drafty windows and big thick solid wood doors definitely looked like something that should be in a horror movie. The couple who previously rented the apartment, who wished to remain anonymous, experienced a series of strange phenomenon. Starting with an unexplained knocking on the outside wall of their bedroom at all hours of the day and night. "It would happen at 2:00 in the afternoon or midnight, we'd hear a knock on the outside brick wall, we'd rush outside to see if we could catch the person who was knocking, only to find no one was there." says the ex-tenant. This happened constantly.

Things got more eerie when one evening, while the husband was at a friends house in Whitby received a frantic phone call from his wife, in tears and hysterical begging him to come home immediately. Upon arriving home, his wife told him she heard heavy breathing in their bedroom coming from under the bed. He entered the room. To his amazement, he heard the breathing. "It was incredible, there was no denying what I heard."

Things continued to get even more inexplicable. Another evening, the couple awoke in bed with a startle at the same moment, both sensing some sort of entity hovering inches from their faces, perpendicular to their bodies, breathing on them and staring at them.

"We had a corner of the living room that was always dark. It was shadowy, the floor was discoloured and it was always cold. You always felt, while sitting in that room, like you were being watched. Very unnerving."

Strange occurrences continued to happen until the couple decided to move out of the apartment. "I'm not a "believer" in this type of thing, even after everything that happened in that apartment... but I have to admit that some very strange unexplainable phenomenon happened while we lived in that apartment."

Do you have horror stories from around Durham Region? We'd love to hear them. Visit our FaceBook page at www.facebook.com/oshawahalloweenparade and tell us your story!