

# Tales of the Marysburgh Vortex - Channeling the Vibes of the Twilight Zone

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19 by writing stories set in Prince Edward County (PEC). The stories are written for radio and will be aired this coming September on County FM.

Rosemary Smith and Peter Blendell have long been interested in creative writing and story telling. Both reside on County Road 17, north of Milford. The third member of the writing team, Elis Ziegler, lives on Old Milford Road and is the proprietor of the Curious Goat, featured in last month's edition of The Mirror.

The three came together as a group at the behest of Philip Knox, a well-known producer of local theatre in the County. Unable to pursue his usual theatre activities during Covid, he encouraged local residents to writing plays that he could produce for radio – a creative outlet for him while live theatre was prohibited.

Rosemary, Peter and Elis took on the challenge and from September through December of 2020, they shaped the theme, based on the fabled South Marysburgh Vortex, and framed their stories reflecting on real life happen-

ings in this part of the County.

The Vortex is said to be a patch of water between Kingston and South Bay where strange happenings take place in lake-faring marine activities, including shipwrecks. Though the Smith-Blendell-Ziegler stories are not marine-based, the idea of 'tempting fate' that the vortex allegedly presents seemed an appropriate connection.

Through this effort, they created characters and events using elements that will be familiar to South Marysburgh residents, and that help to create a connection for listeners to their real world.

"All the episodes are based in Prince Edward County but the stories are different. They are told using the voice of a single narrator, usually a character named Leona Hicks, nee Collier," said Rosemary, explaining that while the characters are fictitious, they are placed in familiar Marysburgh and County settings and bear last names that are common throughout PEC.

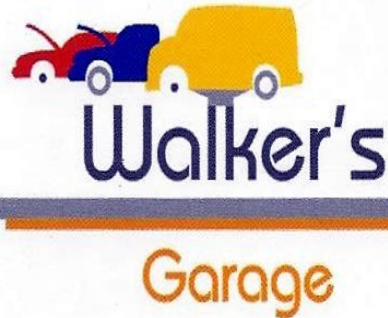
"Leona's storytelling is

the thread that connects the different stories," Elis said, adding that Leona is a present-day grandmother telling stories to her daughter and grandson.

Historical in perspective, Leona relates the stories she

has heard from her parents and grandparents dating back to the late 1700s and the War of 1812-14. Her daughter and grandson tell stories of a more contemporary nature.

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