

Stouffville Tribune

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Halloween season gives eerie legends more appeal

The world of the unknown has been a ghostly mystery for hundreds of years and sightings of haunting spirits, phantom ships and ladies in white

And the supernatural has made its presence known in the Stouffville area, on occasion. dresses are most enticing at Halloween.

A ghost is a spirit of the dead and usually has a task to carry out, reports The World of the Unknown: All About Ghosts, a book published by Usborne

Publishing Ltd., 1977. According to the book, ghosts are seen at different times and by different people but the sightings show the ghost

is always seen in the same place. For instance, the Legend of Ghost Road on Scugog Island continues to haunt and fascinate locals and people who visit there.

According to the legend, a yellowish-white light floats eerily across the night sky and mysteriously fades into the darkness.

This is Scugog Island's headless motorcycle rider who supposedly travels down an isolated dirt road now called Ghost Road.

As the legend goes, the rider - a 20-year-old man with light, curly brown hair - was decapitated by a wire fence as he sped down the road. However, police and hospitals have no record of any such accident.

To this day, people swear the rider's ghost - and the headlights of his motorcycle - can still be seen traveling the road.

Another legend believes ghosts appear for a special reason. These are phantoms of dead people who give warnings or messages to the living - usually family or close friends.

Is your house haunted by a restless spirit?

Here are some of the things that have been reported to have happened in other haunted houses:

□ A ghostly figure glides from room to room and disappears through the walls.

□ The curtains begin to sway in a mysterious breeze.

□ A skeleton is found walled up inside a hidden secret room.

□ In the attic, objects move and fall to the floor while strange thumpings and bangings are heard.

□ A bloodstain on the floor cannot be removed no matter how many times it is washed - it always returns.

□ A constant bird-chirping sound is heard at any given time - sounds ghosts are supposed to make.

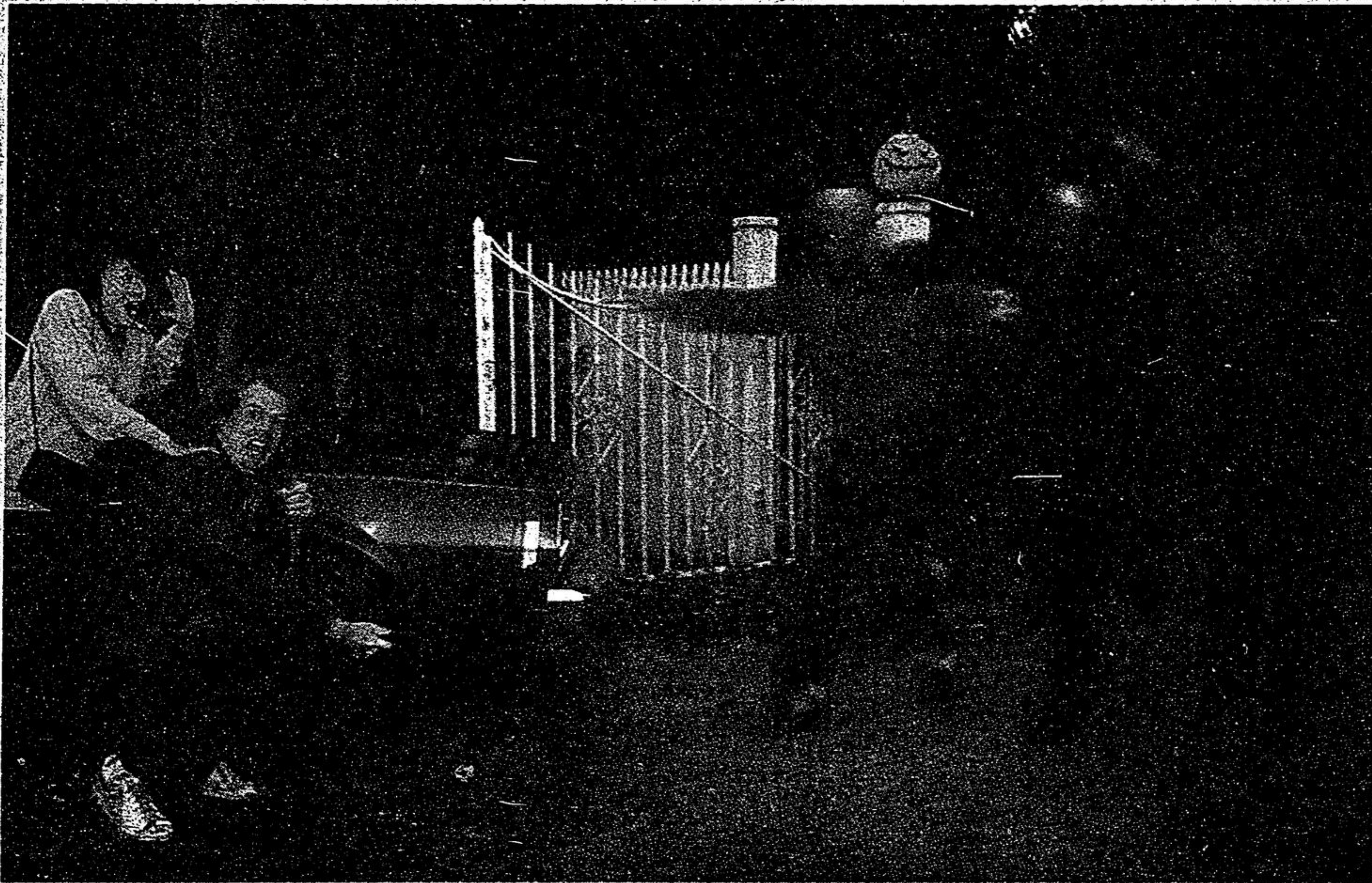


photo STEVE SOMERVILLE

Spooked

Ghouls were seen frightening this young couple whose car broke down in the rural area recently. Though there were no injuries, and the incident wasn't reported in police files, the cou-

ple lived to tell their harrowing tale. Halloween is a time when all sorts of spooky things happen to people who are least expecting them.

Stouffville groups square off over arena use

TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

A recent decision to extend arena use to May at the Recreation Complex has received an icy response from groups who want to use the public facility in April.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce members want their annual Home Show event to take place in April, but the Stouffville Skating Club has already received approval from the Town to extend its season to May 17.

At last week's Council meeting, a representative from the Chamber of Commerce, accompanied by many of its members, told local officials the Chamber was not informed nor consulted of the ice extension plans.

Scott Rowntree said the 1990 Home Show at the

Recreation Complex was a success with 72 exhibitors, and a paid attendance of 2,500 people - the group attributes the success of the event to the April time slot.

"If you kill the Home Show you also kill the Chamber of Commerce," Mr. Rowntree said.

He added "the only thing you have to market" at the complex is the ice, and pointed out the facility is running with an operating loss of nearly \$165,000.

"You have to make the facility multi-functional," he said.

"The business people of our community saw (the Home Show's success) as a positive sign, that Stouffville was alive and open for business," Mr. Rowntree added.

He added 80 per cent of 1990 participants confirmed interest for the 1991 year and want to know the dates for the upcoming event.

But Stouffville Skating Club President Anne Pride defended the importance of having the ice an extra month and said there are 260 registered skaters and nine professional instructors under contract who expect to use the ice until May 17.

"We admit we don't know how successful this will be but it will make the club stronger with the extended season," Ms. Pride said.

Another group requesting use of the complex is the Stouffville District Secondary School Reunion committee, which planned to hold a dance May 17 as a kick-

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EVENTS

memo:

SPORTS



WINNERS

