

# Close encounters of the rural kind



**Rural Route Ruth**

*Ruth LeBlanc*

wearing a top hat and identified him as the man in the mirror. It was a photo of the original owner of the building from many years ago; of course, he was long deceased.

No further sightings were seen and the family has lived a long and peaceful life in the house. Was this a curious soul who just wanted to see who was inhabiting the home that he had built all those years ago? He appeared not as a shadowy figure, as most apparitions are reported, but as clear as day and just as real.

To end this spine-tingling look into the realms of the unknown, I take you back in time once again. Elizabeth Todd wrote a book called *Burrs and Blackberries* and wrote this chilling account of our next ghostly visitor.

"When Marthe died Aunt Lizzie Slack wuz her best friend. She woke up 'round about midnight cuz she'd heard somebody tappin' on the window. She thought she saw Marthe's face outside. She woke up Albert but he couldn't see or hear a thing. She made him go out and check but there weren't no footprints in the fresh snow. Next day Dad went over 'n' told her that Marthe had passed on at 12:30."

Today, as in years gone by, there are stories that are told to only close friends and family for fear of ridicule.

Next week we will explore some of these

frightening looks into the paranormal.

Till then Rural Routers, keep your eyes open for the unusual, and beware of things that go bump in the night!

a heart attack when — suddenly — lights appeared. Holding back hysteria, I saw that it was merely my high beams bouncing off the tombstones. The knocking of my knees was the only sound to be heard, as we sat watching and waiting. A brave ghostbuster I am not.

That October 'eve I can report that there was not a light to be seen and all was peaceful. Driving away with a sigh of relief we next headed to Wagg Road, where years ago a Goodwood resident insisted she'd seen a ghostly apparition run down the railway tracks.

Years before, as the story goes, a young man set off for Goodwood by way of the train tracks. A train with a cattle scoop came by, hitting the poor fellow and breaking his leg. Dragging his body along the tracks, he never did make his destination. Just days later, two men out for a walk found his frozen body in the snow. Is the ghostly apparition the soul of this poor man searching for his way home?

Closer in time we have the Man in the Mirror Mystery. On a local farm that was built in 1812, a fellow co-worker tells of a close encounter with the unknown that her mother had experienced.

In the old farm kitchen there was a mirror above the sink. One day, while washing dishes, she glanced up into the mirror to see a mysterious figure wearing a top hat, watching her every movement. Weeks later, the family was welcomed by the neighbours. Old photographs were shown of the area, featuring both homes and the people who had lived there many years before. You can only imagine her shock when she saw a picture of a man

My Salute to the Unusual continues. This week we take a close look at unsolved rural mysteries from the past. Fact or fiction, who can judge?

The following tales occurred many years ago and left haunting memories. At the turn of the century, two lone brothers lived and farmed on the property directly across from the Goodwood Cemetery. Occasionally cows would stray, making their way across the road to the graveyard.

In the dark of night, lanterns could be seen among the tombstones, as the brothers searched for their strays. According to local legend the lights can still be seen.

Last year I set out on a ghost-busting expedition in search of those very lights.

On a cold, dreary night with light rain falling and leaves dancing eerily on the ground, I went to the graveyard with a reporter friend.

Driving into the north entrance, I nearly had

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**TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE**

**1997 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS NOTICE**

**VOTING PROXY**

Those persons that are qualified to vote in this year's Municipal Elections on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1997, but will be absent from the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, are advised that you may arrange to have someone vote on your behalf via an Appointment of Voting Proxy (Form 3).

Pursuant to the Municipal Elections Act, 1996:

A person who is entitled to be an elector in a local municipality may appoint another person who is also so entitled as his or her Appointment of Voting Proxy, using the prescribed form.

A person shall not,

- appoint more than one Voting Proxy;
- act as a Voting Proxy for more than one other person. (This restriction does not apply if the Proxy and the other person are spouses or siblings of each other, parent and child, or grandparent and grandchild.)

The appointment of a Voting Proxy may be made only after October 10, 1997, and does not remain in force after Election Day.

The person who has been appointed a Voting Proxy shall,

- complete an application in the prescribed form, including a statutory declaration that he or she is the person appointed as a Voting Proxy; and
- present the application and the appointing document to the Clerk at the Clerk's office, in person.

Application for a Voting Proxy may be made at the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Clerk's Office, 19 Civic Avenue, Stouffville, during regular office hours Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., as well as, Saturday November 1, 1997 during the hours of 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.

Michele Kennedy  
Town Clerk and Returning Officer