

The Toronto Ghosts & Hauntings Research Society Presents...



Image Above Courtesy of Toronto Tourism

Self Guided Walking Tour of Downtown Toronto

Version 1.3

From the notes of the Torontoghosts' Website
www.torontoghosts.org

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About This Document:

Since early October of 1997, The Toronto Ghosts and Hauntings Research Society has been collecting Toronto's ghostly legends and lore for our website and sharing the information with anyone with an interest in things that go bump in the night... or day... or any time, really. If it's ghostly in nature, we try to stay on top of it.

One of the more popular things for a person with a passion for all things spooky is to do a "ghost tour"... which is something that our group has never really offered and never planned to do... but it is something we get countless requests about especially during the Hallowe'en season.

Although we appreciate and understand the value of a good guided ghost tour for both the theatrical qualities and for a fun story telling time and as such, we are happy to send people in Toronto to Richard Fiennes-Clinton at Muddy York Walking Tours (who offers the more theatrical tours focusing on ghosts and history, see www.muddyorktours.com)

We do also understand that at Hallowe'en, these types of tours can fill up quickly and leave people in the lurch. Also, there are people that cannot make time for these tours because of scheduling or other commitments. Another element to consider is that we know there are people out there who appreciate a more "DIY" (do it yourself) flavour for things... so we have developed this booklet...

This is a "DIY" ghost tour... self guided... from Union Station to Bloor Street.... and then from Bloor Street to Union Station... not meant as a replacement for a guided tour, but as an alternative.

If you were to do both tours, you'd probably be looking at about four solid hours of walking... so, for those who may not be physically ready for a ghostly marathon, we recommend picking a course **South to North** (starting at Union Station and working your way to the Royal Ontario Museum,) or from **North to South** (from the Royal Ontario Museum to Union Station.) Pace yourself, mind the traffic and traffic rules, don't assume every spot we mention welcomes ghost enthusiasts eagerly into their establishments, but you're more than welcome to enjoy the sites from the outside. Of course, some places will welcome interested parties having a look inside... like my mom always used to say... *"Ask. The worst anyone can say to you is no."*

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Torontoghosts' Self Guided Walking Tour of Toronto

Caveats and Notes:

As stated on the previous page, not every site on this tour is open to the public... and those that are may not be “ghost friendly”, meaning they may not welcome (or more properly, be prepared for) visitors who wish to discuss the paranormal or the ghostly legends attached to their site... but, there really is no harm in asking if you wish... just PLEASE be respectful if they either don't know anything about the stories or legends attached to their site or don't wish to discuss things.

On the same note, if a site you visit on these tours is “not open” (or not open to the public,) then PLEASE respect that and enjoy the site from outside and move on.

This tour is through busy downtown streets and you should always be aware of traffic... especially when crossing streets. Obey the pedestrian signals and be safe!

There's an old adage in surgery... and it applies in doing a self guided tour... *“If in doubt, DON'T!”* If a site seems unsafe or, for whatever reason you feel a place isn't secure, find a route around it... or move on to the next site.

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PAGE C

Torontoghosts' Self Guided Walking Tour of Toronto TOUR ROUTES:

South to North:

Starting from Union Station, you will walk North along Bay Street to Queen Street West. Turning right, you will walk on the North side of the street (nearest Old City Hall,) to James Street. Walk North on James Street past to the Church of the Holy Trinity, turn left (going West) and walk to Bay Street at Elizabeth Street and cross at the lights continuing West through to Armoury Street by walking behind New City Hall and Osgoode Hall until you reach University Avenue. Walk North (turn right) and continue along to College Street. Cross to the park area in front of Queen's Park and walk towards the parliament buildings... stay to the West (left hand) side. Walk behind the parliament buildings (staying in the grounds) to Wellesley Street (or Hart House Circle) and walk under the underpass (left turn at Wellesley or to the West,) and continue to King's College Road (stay more or less straight and to the left,) and go to the West side of the University College building. Carry on Westward across Kings' College Circle to the rear of The MacDonald/Mowat House (next door to Knox College.) Double-back and turn left and walk to the rear of University College's building, turn right at the playing field and head to Tower Road and walk to the Soldier's Tower. From here, carry on along Tower Road to the North (away from the Tower and towards Hoskin Avenue) to Trinity College... Cross at the light. Turn right and walk to Philosopher's Walk (a paved footpath to the direct East of Trinity College,) and walk North to Bloor.

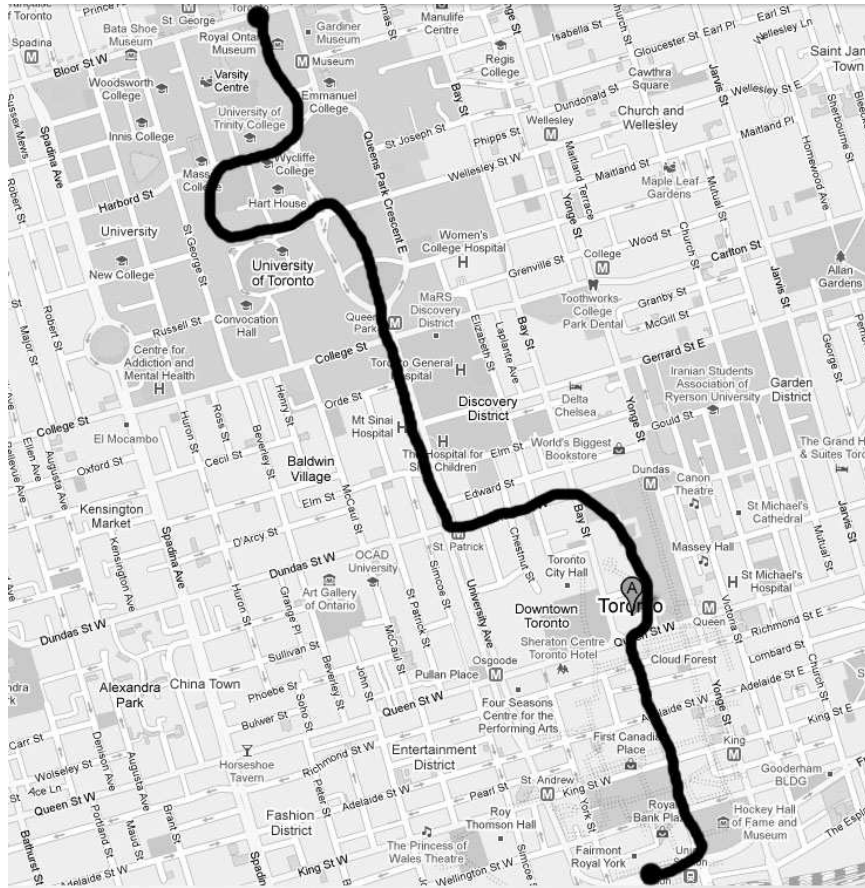
North to South:

Starting from The Royal Ontario Museum at Bloor and Queen's Park, cross to the East side of Queen's Park and travel South clinging to the East side of the street until you reach Wellesley. Turn right and travel East on Wellesley to Yonge Street. (We recommend if you're interested heading a few doors North on Yonge (turn left onto Yonge) on the West side to our favourite used bookstore, Elliot's, where you'll find ghostly fare close to the front door or slightly towards the back on the first floor... Elliot's has three floors of used books and is a fantastic place to shop... and no, they didn't pay for this plug, we honestly like them...) Walk South on Yonge to Gerrard St. East. Turn left and walk to Kerr Hall at Ryerson University. Walk through Kerr Hall (South) to Gould Street and Bond Street. Continue South on Bond to Queen Street East. Turn right (head West) to Victoria Street and walk South to Adelaide Street East. Turn Left and walk East to Toronto Street. Walk South on Toronto to Court Street. Walk East on Court to Church Street. Turn right and walk South on Church to King Street East. Turn left and walk East on King to Jarvis. Turn right and walk South on Jarvis to Front Street. Turn right on Front Street and walk West to Union Station.

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Torontoghosts' Self Guided Walking Tour of Toronto

SOUTH TO NORTH:

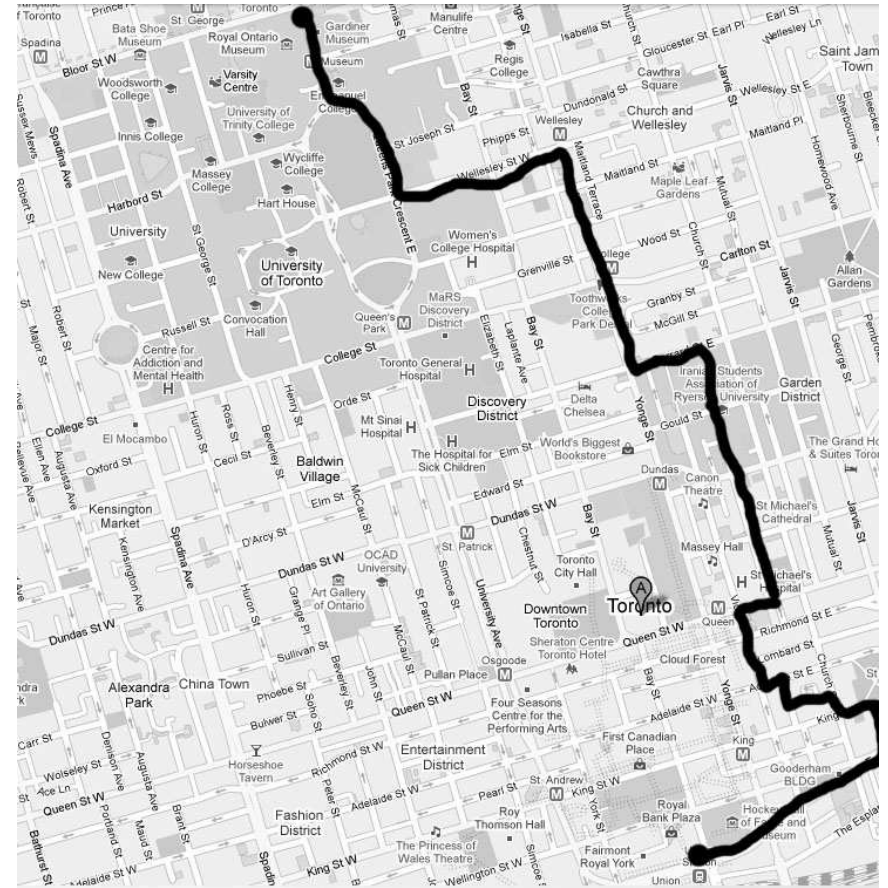


Thanks to Googlemaps...

**Starts at Union Station and ends at
The Royal Ontario Museum...**
(From the Next Page to Page 10)

Torontoghosts' Self Guided Walking Tour of Toronto

NORTH TO SOUTH:



Thanks to Googlemaps...

**Starts at The Royal Ontario Museum and ends at
Union Station**
(Starts after Page 10 of the South-North Tour)

Torontoghosts' Self Guided Walking Tour of Toronto SOUTH TO NORTH: PAGE 1

The Fairmont Royal York Hotel: 100 Front Street W

One of the cities most enduring landmarks and at one time, the tallest building in the commonwealth, The Royal York's opulence still survives even though it has been dwarfed by the other towers of the city of Toronto.

The buildings most noted ghost is of an apparition of a grey haired man that appears in a maroon smoking jacket and slacks silently moving along the hallway of the eighth floor of the dormitory tower. Other strange happenings reported by both staff, and guests over the years include loud disembodied footsteps in certain stairwells, phantom screams, and the feeling of being watched.

For further information, and reports from this location please visit us at www.torontoghosts.org



The Former Toronto Stock Exchange Current Design Exchange: 234 Bay Street

Toronto's first Stock Exchange building was built in 1912 at 234 Bay Street.



The Exchange merged in the 1930s with the Standard Stock and Mining Exchange and a new structure was erected on the same site. The building was designated a heritage property on August 14, 1978 because of its "architectural value and historic interest." The Exchange moved in 1983 to its current headquarters at the corners of King and York streets.

The original banking has remained wholly intact and parts were fully restored by the developer. It is currently home to the Design Exchange, which is open to the public.

The activity reported to us by staff members include poltergeist-like phenomena such as turning on taps in the kitchen, interference with the electrical system, footsteps, apparitions, eerie feelings of a presence, and possible images of a strange creature caught on a surveillance camera. Older reports do exist and are similar to those mentioned above.

For further information, and reports from this location please visit us at www.torontoghosts.org

Torontoghosts' Self Guided Walking Tour of Toronto SOUTH TO NORTH: PAGE 2

TD Centre (Not "ghostly" lore, just for interest's sake...)

The Toronto-Dominion Centre is located in the heart of the Financial District of Toronto, at the southwest corner of King and Bay Streets. The area occupies an entire city block, from King to Bay to Wellington to York Streets, as well as a section to the south of King Street between Wellington and Piper Streets.



Designed by Modernist architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe in association with John B. Parkin Associates and Bregman and Hamann Architects, the Toronto-Dominion Centre is located in the heart of Toronto's financial district. The Centre was commissioned by Allen Lambert, chairman of TD bank, in partnership with Fairview Corporation. The complex is arranged around a granite-paved pedestrian plaza and originally consisted of three buildings: the 56-storey Toronto-Dominion Bank Tower (1967), the one-storey Banking Pavilion (1968), and the 46-storey Royal Trust Tower (1969). An underground shopping concourse is located beneath the granite plinth. The buildings are steel structures, clad with bronze-coloured glass and black painted steel, with steel I-beam mullions attached to the exterior. A leading example of the International style in Canada, the Toronto-Dominion Centre altered the Toronto cityscape and influenced many buildings throughout the country.

Credit to work by Deborah Stiff: In 1993, 39 year-old lawyer Garry Hoy, in a "demonstration" of the strength of the windows of one of the towers, died when he plummeted twenty-four stories after throwing his body against a pane of glass in front of a collection of law students visiting the office.

Giant Heads On Commerce Court North (Not "ghostly" lore, just for interest's sake...)

This building is famous for its "Giants of Jordan Street." Sixteen enormous faces vigilantly stare out to all corners of the city, each face alternating between a grin and a grimace. They represent the bank's goals of courage, observation, foresight and enterprise.



Torontoghosts' Self Guided Walking Tour of Toronto
SOUTH TO NORTH: PAGE 3

Old City Hall: 60 Queen St W

Built in the late 1890s, and once the head seat of the Municipality of Toronto and County of York, this building now serves the city as its municipal courts. The city's departments were moved to the modern buildings just west of this ornate building with (for Toronto,) rather unique architecture.



There are numerous reports of different ghostly activity. The rear staircase has a poltergeist that seems to enjoy tugging at judges' robes as well as walking up and down the stairs where its footsteps can still be heard. The cellars acted at one time as a holding centre for prisoners and the moans of the incarcerated have been heard as well. The Northwest attic is also a spot where a presence is felt, but no one is quite sure what it is. Courtroom 33 is said to be haunted by the spirits of the last men condemned to hang in Canada. This is where the spirits are said to be the strongest and it is almost a tradition for someone in the press to attempt to spend the night on Halloween. In John Robert Colombo's book *Haunted Toronto*, he tells of a pair of stout reporters that almost managed to spend the night but gave in by 4am. The reporters told of "cool fogs" and weird noises that left them, at times, glued to the floor.

For further information, and reports from this location please visit us at www.torontoghosts.org

Canada Life Building
(Not "ghostly" lore, just for interest's sake...)

As you come around the back of Old City Hall, glance West (to your left,) and notice the weather beacon on top of the older building you see in the distance... It is indeed functional.

Torontoghosts' Self Guided Walking Tour of Toronto
SOUTH TO NORTH: PAGE 4

Canada Life Building (cont.)

If the beacon is steady green, it's fair weather.
If it's steady and red, skies are cloudy.
Red and flashing means rain... and white flashing means snow flurries.

If you see the lights running up to the top, the temperature is rising... down and it's falling... and steady lights means no change.



Scadding House:
Trinity Square next to the Eaton Centre



Nestled in the consumer and corporate sprawl of Trinity Square is #6 - Scadding House. This historic building was home to the first rector of the Holy Trinity Church which stands beside the home. Scadding was a scholar who wrote early histories of Toronto as well as his work for the church. Does his spirit still haunt his old home? Some people feel that his presence, though benign and peaceful, still lingers around the old house. We researched the site and spoke with an employee who worked in a small shop inside the old house. She told us that on occasion, she would feel that there was someone else in the room with her looking around at the merchandise but when she'd turn to talk to the person there would be no one there.

For further information, and reports from this location please visit us at www.torontoghosts.org

Of Note While Walking Up University Avenue....

Although not on this tour as such, if you glance towards the West at University and Dundas St. West (look to your left), you can make out on the South side of the street the Art Gallery of Ontario about two blocks further along... of which "The Grange" is incorporated into... If you want a little extra ghostly lore with this tour, stop here and make a note of the information found at... <http://psican.org/links/grange01/> and <http://psican.org/links/grange02/>
We would have added these to the tour proper, but we felt most folk's feet would probably not appreciate the extra two blocks!

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SOUTH TO NORTH: PAGE 5

Sick Kid's Hospital: 555 University Ave



Torontonians are extremely proud of our world famous Sick Children's Hospital, known locally as simply "Sick Kid's". The hospital's reputation for its fine care and incredible staff are truly deserved. An enduring legend has it that a few years back, a particularly brave and surprisingly happy thirteen year old girl (who had always been a bit of a favourite of the staff) passed away of the leukemia she was being treated for. Brave to the end, she devoted her last few days to comforting an eight year old boy who was also fighting this disease. Some months after her passing, the young boy was lying in his bed, dying. A night nurse, on rounds, noticed a visible glow coming from the boy's room. She peered in and saw the young girl sitting beside the bed of the boy in the picture of health holding his hand. The nurse was understandably concerned but the girl simply looked at the nurse, smiled in recognition and resumed telling the boy he had nothing to be afraid of. The boy passed on that night, probably less afraid of anything than he had been in months.

For further information, and reports from this location please visit us at www.torontoghosts.org

Stewart Building: 149 College St

A former student at the Ontario College of Art shared their haunting experiences while working on a project about this building. The College used to own the site at University and College known as the Stewart Building. The project they worked on was a documentary film about the building itself. At one time the Stewart building was the home of 52 Division police station and during that time one of the prisoners detained there committed suicide by jumping out of a window. It was reported from numerous sources while making the film that there were strange noises and creepy vibes especially in the basement.

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SOUTH TO NORTH: PAGE 6

Stewart Building: (Cont.)

Another former student of the Ontario College of Art during the early 1980s spent many hours in the Stewart building - both as a student and working weekends on security to earn some extra cash. And they too shared some eerie experiences with us, which included the feeling of being watched, strange noises, hearing rapping on doors when no one was there, and touched by a disembodied hand.

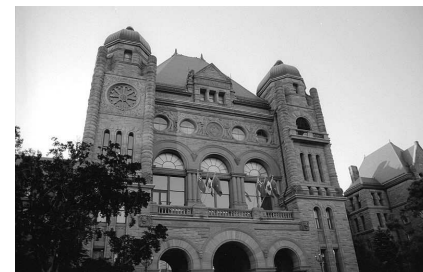


For further information, and reports from this location please visit us at www.torontoghosts.org

Queen's Park:

If you are a native of Ontario you may have referred to our illustrious house of provincial parliament as a "nuthouse". You'd be ABSOLUTELY right! Before the construction of the legislative complex, the University Hospital for the Insane was built on this property, dating back to 1842. Three apparitions of women haunt the present complex - probably former residents of the original institution.

The White Lady wanders the halls, appearing sorrowful, with a long white flowing robe and long hair. The Maiden wears a checkered dress with an apron which she holds over her face to conceal her features. Most gruesome is The Hanging Woman, who dangles from a hook in the long tunnel in the basement. Also here is a curious (and probably recent) apparition of a soldier in full regimental dress that appears angry as he descends the Grand Staircase of the main hall.



For further information, and reports from this location please visit us at www.torontoghosts.org

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University College: University of Toronto



Image Credit –
Torontoghosts

Most Torontonians and 99% of University of Toronto alumni are familiar with the story of Ivan Reznikoff and Paul Diablos, whose fight managed to give U of T one of its most enduring legends and Toronto one of its favourite stories. Legend has it that during the construction of this gothic revival building, a Russian stone mason named Reznikoff was courting a young lady native to Toronto. Apparently, Mr. Diablos, a Greek mason, was seeing the maid on the side as well. Legend says that Diablos even carved two gargoyles that adorn the university, one an image of Reznikoff and another of Diablos, laughing behind his back. When Reznikoff found proof of his girlfriend's infidelity, he immediately confronted Diablos and a fight began near the construction site. Reznikoff chased Diablos through the unfinished building with an axe (taking swings at him and once, missing him and leaving an axe mark on the door that's still visible to this day), and the duo ended up high in the unfinished tower. Reznikoff took a mighty swing, missed, and plummeted to his death. Diablos, to escape blame, buried Reznikoff in the foundations of the building and vanished from Toronto. Years later, after a devastating fire in 1890, the remains of an unidentified man were unearthed at the college.



Image Credit –
Torontoghosts

The apparition of Ivan Reznikoff has been sighted by the students and staff of University of Toronto's University College. There are also reports of poltergeist activity in and around the connected buildings. In admiration of the tale there is a Diablos Coffee Shop one of the buildings at U of T near University College.

Mcdonald Mowat House: University of Toronto Just North of Knox College

Is Canada's first Prime Minister still lurking around his old house? The story of an apparition of a man in a frock coat on the second floor circulates amongst its newest residents from University of Toronto and the caretaker staff as well.



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Soldiers' Tower: University of Toronto

The Soldiers' Tower is a monument to remind the university community of students and alumni who died during the First World War.



Image Credit –
W. Mokrynski for Torontoghosts

There is a long-standing tale of a ghost of a repairman who fell to his death while polishing the bells in the 1930s. His apparition has been reportedly seen near the tower and strange lights have been occasionally seen coming from the tower windows. (This story is heavily disputed though, and with some cause in historical fact and indeed, the layout of the tower and bells themselves! Interestingly enough, however, the lights that shouldn't be there are still seen...)

Trinity College: University of Toronto

One of Toronto's if not Canada's grandest and most beautiful pieces of gothic architecture is the imposing Trinity College and chapel. There is a portrait of Bishop Strachan that hangs in the Provost's Office, and the eyes of that portrait do seem to follow one about the room. Also, reports say that on the anniversary of his death, his apparition walks the halls of this not-so-ancient-as-it-appears building. Oddly enough, this anniversary follows close after Halloween, November 1st to be exact. There are several other reports of ghostly goings-on including within the chapel.



For further information, and reports from this location please visit us at www.torontoghosts.org



Image Credit –
University of Trinity College:
Trinity College

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SOUTH TO NORTH: PAGE 9

**Former Planetarium, and Children's Own Museum:
Just South of The Royal Ontario Museum**

This building is said to be haunted by the ghost of a little girl dubbed Celeste whose sad little spectre would sit in the McLaughlin Planetarium watching the shows. Later when the building became the site of the Children's Own Museum reports of the little girl ghost continued. In 2009 the building was sold to the University of Toronto and there are plans to demolish it. One wonders if the spirit of Celeste will finally be at rest or will she continue to haunt any new buildings erected in its place?



Royal Conservatory of Music:
273 Bloor Street West just West of the Royal Ontario Museum

McMaster Hall was built in 1881 to house the Toronto Baptist College, a residential school for training missionaries and ministers. It was beautifully designed by the architectural firm Langley, Langley & Burke. The Royal Conservatory moved to McMaster Hall in 1963, after the Conservatory's buildings at the corner of College Street and University Avenue were sold. No longer a residential school, McMaster Hall is now filled with music studios and classrooms. In 1976, the Ontario Heritage Foundation designated McMaster Hall a building of historic significance.

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Royal Conservatory of Music: (Cont.)

This building is haunted by more than one ghost. There is a spirit that likes to linger while musicians practise in a certain studio. Other reports that we have received over the years include: a female entity (according to the witnesses) and one is a poltergeist (felt, not seen) but again, is assumed by the witnesses to be female. The two apparitions of a woman are described in either a red top or a red dress. She is seen in the hallways of the second and third floor. The other is "felt" as if someone is entering a room... and there's a change in the "environment" as if someone has now come in, but no one is physically there.



**The Royal Ontario Museum:
Bloor Street West and Avenue Rd**

Two ghosts inhabit different parts of the museum. One is the original director of the ROM, Charles Trick Currelly, whose apparition has been seen wearing a nightshirt and wandering the East Asiatic collections. Staff have reported strange occurrences in this gallery and some have seen the ghost themselves.



For further information, and reports from this location please visit us at www.torontoghosts.org

Torontoghosts' Self Guided Walking Tour of Toronto
NORTH TO SOUTH: PAGE 1

IF THIS IS YOUR STARTING POINT...

...and you're not going to work "South to North", you may want to flip back and catch the notes on The Royal Ontario Museum, The Royal Conservatory of Music, and The Former McLaughlin Planetarium/Children's Own Museum on the preceding pages... They're close by this starting point...

Former Christie Mansion: 90 Wellesley St.



Image Credit – Regis College Jesuit Faculty of Theology at the University of Toronto

It is said that Mr. Christie makes good cookies but did he in real life make a live-in lover absolutely miserable? Not to cast dispersions on the company that bears his name today, but perhaps the son of William Christie - Robert - had done some things that were not very good. Although he was reported to have been devoted to his wife, Robert carried on an affair with another woman and kept her in a secret room in his mansion. This miniature apartment had two entrances that were concealed behind wood paneling. The mistress had everything she needed (including a separate bathroom) except for food which was brought to her by a bribed servant. Years went by and Robert came to her less and less often. After a time, she went mad and hanged herself in one of the hidden rooms that she had resided in. Her body was secreted away and buried by Robert and a servant. He never recovered from his feeling of overwhelming guilt and soon his wealth, the family business and his own family were in tatters. The business was sold to Nabisco and the mansion became part of St. Joseph's College.

Although this story may be total myth, there is in fact a secret room known as room 29, and there are reports of doors opening and closing without human assistance as well as locking themselves (and usually hapless students) in and out of this odd room. Is this poltergeist the spirit of a forsaken lover or something else?

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NORTH TO SOUTH: PAGE 2

Sutton Place Hotel: 955 Bay St

We don't have anything terribly concrete from this imposing hotel, but there are vague reports of a woman in formal dress downstairs near the large kitchen freezer units... and some people have reported "Weird Feelings" in lobby and in elevators... Historically, we couldn't make a connection with these for any reason... and like all reports, it's recommended you "Take this as you will"!



Most people in the city will tell you this is one of our finer hotels and a great place to meet and stay.

For Interest's Sake Only:

Former "Voodoo Lounge": 9 St. Joseph St at St. Nicholas St.

Just North of Wellesley near Yonge in this building was a place that could claim to be one of the two original "goth nightclubs" in Toronto (the other being named "Twilight Zone" on Queen St. West.) Although we'd LOVE to tell you that it's haunted, alas to those with a love of "gothic culture", it is not... Again, not "ghostly", but possibly of interest to some.

For Interest's Sake Only:

Eliot's Bookshop: 584 Yonge St. just North of Wellesley.

As mentioned at the front of this book, Eliot's is a personal favourite "haunt" of our own... not to say it's haunted, but *we* (the compilers of this booklet,) haunt the shop whenever we can. Three floors of used books at great prices in an incredible environment! Well worth the visit... and "ghostly" stuff is conveniently located just near the front entrance and in another section on the first floor near the back. No, Eliot's hasn't paid us for this plug... and we don't work for them! It's honestly just a fantastic resource for good used books! (Never let it be said we don't share our secrets now!)

For Interest's Sake Only:

Walking South on Yonge St. towards our next stop...

Keep an eye out for an old Toronto Firehall Tower on the West Side of the street near College... and also note that Metro Police Headquarters is nearby with a FREE museum to visit on College just about ½ a block West from Yonge.

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NORTH TO SOUTH: PAGE 3

College Park and Carlu: 444 Yonge St at College



College Park, located on the South-West corner of College and Yonge streets was one of the now defunct Eaton's Retail Empire's greatest dreams that never came to fruition. Construction began in the late 1920's on this impressive, forty-story, art deco structure. Sadly, it was never completed as planned due to the interference of the depression and it primarily served as the house wares and appliances retail outlet for the Eaton's chain. Any visitor (even to this day,) can see the ornate and beautiful structure that was completed and can only imagine "what if the entire project had been finished. One of the lesser known parts of this "mall" (after Eaton's gave up the location, smaller shops moved in and now it's home to a "food court", some municipal offices and courts, small boutiques as well as one of the main entrances to the College Subway Station) is the auditorium located on the upper floors. It is the auditorium that appears to be haunted by at least one female spirit. We have received many reports over the years mostly from security staff who have encountered her.

For further information, and reports from this location please visit us at www.torontoghosts.org



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NORTH TO SOUTH: PAGE 4

Elephant and Castle: 378 Yonge St at Gerrard St

We have had a couple of reports of mild poltergeist activity and a "strange customer" who sit's near the back in what seems to be a raggedy jacket, who when you look away, disappears. It is worth noting that there's at least two "haunted" Elephant and Castle's in the chain in Toronto!



Image Credit –
AdHoc Travel

Ryerson Theatre School:
Just East of Yonge Street on Gerrard St East (North Side)

Numerous reports of ghostly activity have been reported from the theatre school. These include apparitions, cold spots, and poltergeist activity. Some of the more unnerving reports include repeated sightings of what appears to be a white female figure in the hallway located behind the McAllister Studio and the attic above the studio, and disembodied voices that whisper your name. In the Fall of 2008 the Toronto Ghosts & Hauntings Research Society was formally asked to investigate the school. We would like to thank the staff and students, along with witnesses who have over the years shared their experiences with us.



For further information, and reports from this location please visit us at www.torontoghosts.org

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NORTH TO SOUTH: PAGE 5

Mackenzie House: 82 Bond St



This boxy, middle-class Georgian home is reputed to be the most haunted house in Toronto—possibly the most haunted house in Canada. This is the historic home of Toronto's first mayor and rebel, the firebrand William Lyon Mackenzie; however, Mackenzie only resided in the home for about two years, from 1859 to 1861 when he passed away in his bedroom on the second floor. Still, there are reported instances of eerie reminders of both Mackenzie, his wife and some children. The apparition of a small, bald man in a wig and frock coat is often seen around the home, especially in the third floor bedroom. This would be an apt

description of the former famous occupant. Also, a woman with long hair has been spotted around the second and third floor areas. Cold spots and such poltergeist activity as footsteps and the printing press in the basement starting up have been supposedly reported by the staff and many of the tourists. Apparently, one of the more interesting things is the ghosts' reported near obsession with something that is relatively new in the house... the indoor plumbing.

For further information, and reports from this location please visit us at www.torontoghosts.org

Point of Interest:

As you're walking along to our next site, you'll notice on the East side of the street, you'll be passing two of Toronto's bigger sites of Worship... The first is St. Michael's Cathedral (Catholic) and just South of that, Metropolitan United Church which is the largest United Church in Canada.

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NORTH TO SOUTH: PAGE 6

St. Michael's Hospital: 30 Bond St.

A cornerstone of the city, St. Mike's is easily one of Toronto's crowning hospitals. Run by the Sisters of St. Joseph, its doors opened in 1892.



Ward 7B however offers an interesting tradition of Sister Vincenza. "Vinnie", as she's called by the staff, turns lights on and off and can be seen occasionally making her rounds. There's only one little problem with "Vinnie" - she's been dead since the 1950s. The most eerie part of this combined poltergeist and apparition haunting is that when people see Sister Vincenza, her nun's cowl is circling a black chasm where her face should be. We have several reports including current ones from this location on our website. Sister Vinnie is not the only ghost haunting the hospital, there is at least one more spirit haunting the medical records rooms.

For further information, and reports from this location please visit us at www.torontoghosts.org

Elgin & Winter Garden Theatre :
189 Yonge St near Queen St

This site is included here, but really, in order to stick to the tour proper, you can only see the back of the theatre from the corner of Queen and Victoria near St. Michael's Hospital... but it's such a great site and great stories, we did want to share it here...

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Elgin & Winter Garden Theatre : (Cont.)

This grand theatre(s) was opened 1913 and originally named Loew's Yonge Street Theatre, after Marcus Loew, head of a chain of theatres known as "Loew's Vaudeville Theatre", these grand lady(s) on Yonge St. have had enough history and reported ghostly phenomena for a few theatres! The 992 seat Winter Garden (upper theatre) was closed in 1928 and for all intents and purposes, sealed off. The 1,561 seat Elgin (lower theatre), with its high, domed ceiling served as cinema for a time where anyone over the age of thirty may remember it's shows on occasional weekends for kids but other than this, the movies shown most of the time were... well... geared to a more 'adult' audience. The theatre(s) were purchased by the Ontario Heritage Association in 1981 and designated a national historical site in 1982. In 1987, when renovations were started, a plethora of things were discovered in the sealed portion of the theatre, including ephemera (playbills, ticket stubs) and costumes from 60 years before which the employees described as a sensation of walking into a time machine. The theatres, lovingly restored and with the 'black paint' and general scarring of the Elgin cleared away and returned to it's brilliant original design and the Winter Garden back to it's unbelievable former glory (easily one of the most unique and beautiful theatres in the world) were officially reopened to the public in 1989. The theatre stands as the last "double-decker" or stacked Edwardian theatre facility in the world.



Reports include how a workman in the theatres watched once as a group of theatre seats in the Winter Garden folded down as if an unseen audience had just sat down to watch a performance, and then, moments after, returned to their normal position. (Note: There is another "seating story" of historic if not ghostly interest about the Winter Garden.) The hand operated elevators, which supposedly require an operator to move, will suddenly start up by themselves and go to various floors for no apparent reason. When we visited, this report was the one that seemed to be the most prevalent. All the staff we've spoken to have either experienced this for themselves or know someone closely who has.

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Elgin & Winter Garden Theatre : (Cont.)

One thing that one staff member admitted to and was reported to us by a patron is an apparition of a woman in Edwardian clothing will appear in the lobby, and remain long enough to be witnessed by a few before disappearing. We don't know who this woman is or why she's still lingering but it's safe to say that enough reports have come in to grant the apparition some credence.

Some of the volunteers doing the renovation conducted a session with a Ouija Board. Almost as soon as they started, a ghost named "Samuel" identified himself. He had been a trombone player in 1918 that had passed away by falling into the orchestra pit of the Elgin. The volunteers asked if there were any other spirits there. He said yes, but when they asked to talk to them, he refused.

Not ghostly but... "The Seat of John Dillinger" is part of the theatre lore. When the theatre was being restored in the 1980s, the staff went to very meticulous extents to adhere to historical faithfulness. They contacted the Biograph Theatre in Chicago, which would have had theatre seats very similar to those originally used in the Elgin Winter Garden. The restorations staff purchased several and they were shipped to Toronto. When they arrived, one chair seemed inexplicably to be upholstered in a different colour. So, the staff had it upholstered to blend in with the others. Shortly thereafter, they were in touch with the staff of the Biograph Theatre, and discovered the reason for the difference. They chair had been its unique colour to indicate that it was the last theatre chair occupied by the notorious American gangster John Dillinger. The infamous bank robber and murderer was gunned down outside the Biograph theatre on July 22nd, 1934, at about 10.30 pm. So, lost somewhere in the expanses of seats is John Dillinger's last chair... A seat any theatre goer could very well be using at any show. As a side note, Dillinger has yet to make an ethereal appearance on stage - or anywhere else within the theatre.

For further information, and reports from this location please visit us at www.torontoghosts.org

**#1 Toronto St and The Old Courthouse:
Toronto St. and Court St**

One of our readers at Torontoghosts' website shared this spooky experience... "A few years ago I was at my bank in a modern building and I went to the second floor to use the washroom. This building was downtown and it was a cold winter's day."

#1 Toronto St and The Old Courthouse: (Cont.)

"While I was standing ready to hear nature's call I got this rather bad impression, as if someone had tapped me on the shoulder and told me in an excited way that people had been hanged here. I thought that this was ridiculous since this was a modern building and I thought no way. As I was walking down the hallway which had arches a few feet apart from each other I got the impression of a rope hanging from it, and when I was in the elevator which had mirrors in it, I couldn't come to look at myself. For the next week, I had terrible nightmares at home and I was feeling very depressed. I kept dreaming that there were hanging ropes in the building especially in the main lobby which had a very high ceiling. Eventually, I found out by doing some research and asking questions that before the building was built there was a parking lot there and before that there was an old jail that went back to the 1850's, and they used to hang people in the courtyard, which used to be the city gallows, but the jail was demolished in the 1950's. Whenever I am downtown I usually avoid that building because of my bad experiences there."

There is now a plaque in the Select Sandwich shop at #1 Toronto street marking it as the place where in 1838 Samuel Lount and Peter Matthews were hung on the gallows there for their participation in the 1837 Rebellion.



ALSO NOTE: The Old Courthouse and its square are still very visible, and currently a lovely Italian restaurant occupies the site. The courtyard square is a pleasant spot to visit (right off Court Street so en route to the next site.)

St. James Cathedral: Church and King Street East



The Cathedral is home to at least one spirit, and tangible bit of Toronto's darker past.

No one seems to know exactly how it all began. The Ridouts and the Jarvis families didn't like each other in general. What we do know is that John Ridout, then eighteen entered the office of Samuel Jarvis and a few minutes later was expelled. Most likely the argument was over some debts Jarvis owed to the Ridouts. Ridout was working as a law student in the law office of his brother, who was suing William Jarvis. John was probably trying to reach a settlement out of court. A few days later, Jarvis and Ridout brawled in the street and had to be pulled apart. They agreed to meet for a duel.

The duel was set for Saturday, July 12, 1817 at daybreak. The two enemies met at Elmsley's Farm (northeast of present-day College and Yonge Streets), each with his "second" or assistant. It was agreed that the two men would stand back to back, take eight paces forward and turn to face the other. Then Jarvis's second would count "One, two, three, fire!" Something went terribly wrong. Ridout fired before he was supposed to. Ridout's second later explained that the counting was not loud enough to hear properly. Whatever the reason, the seconds conferred to discuss duelling etiquette and decided, as they expressed it in a later statement, that "Mr. Jarvis should have his fire." To do the honourable thing, Ridout had to return to his place and offer himself as a target to Jarvis. He did this, the count was repeated, Jarvis fired, and Ridout was struck.

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St. James Cathedral: (Cont.)

Questions have been raised about whether Ridout was killed instantly. According to the doctor who later performed the autopsy, the injuries indicated that Ridout's death must have been almost instantaneous. What Really Happened? Jarvis and the two seconds later submitted a formal, written statement which contradicted the evidence of the autopsy, painting a vastly different picture of what happened after Ridout returned to present himself as a target. It was all marvellously gentlemanly and formal and humane: Mr. Jarvis, at the word 'fire,' did fire, without deliberation, and without raising his arm until the word 'fire.' Mr. Ridout partly reeled around, but did not fall-all parties ran up to him-Mr. Jarvis threw his Pistol on the ground and said, 'My God, what have I done.' Mr. Ridout shook hands with all parties, and freely forgave Mr. Jarvis, and said, 'if Jarvis had not shot him, he might have shot Jarvis.'-There was a full expression of forgiveness on the one side, and sorrow and regret on the other. After this conversation Mr. Ridout fainted, and the parties supposing he was dead, left the ground. Which side was telling the truth? Both sides of the story are told, in vivid detail and with great emotion, in a fascinating pamphlet Samuel Jarvis published ten years later. A coroner's inquest was set up to hear evidence, both from the witnesses and from the doctor who performed the autopsy. At the conclusion of the inquest, the jury found Samuel Peters Jarvis guilty of murder.



Today if you visit St. James Cathedral on King Street East, near Church Street, you will find old gravestones on the walls of the south porch, removed from the old cemetery. One is inscribed...

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St. James Cathedral: (Cont.)

In memory of John Ridout, son of Thomas Ridout, Surveyor General. Filial affections, engaging manners and nobleness of mind gave early promise of future excellence. This promise he gallantly fulfilled by his brave, active and enterprising conduct which gained the praise of his superiors while serving as Midshipman in the Provincial Navy during the late War; at the return of Peace he commenced with ardour the study of the Law and with the fairest prospects; but a Blight came and he was consigned to an early Grave on the 12th day of July 1817, aged 18. Deeply lamented by all who knew him.

Although duelling was in its last days not a socially acceptable practice, there still remained some of the old attitudes which tolerated it. The laws called it murder, but many people still believed that, so long as the duel was fair, no one should be punished for it. Prosecutors didn't fight hard to convict an offender, and juries usually returned a not guilty verdict.

Not "Ghostly", but of interest...

**St. Lawrence Hall/Market Area (North of King):
Jarvis and King St East**



Image Credit to The Ontario Photo Gallery/Ontario Photos

Oddly enough, no there are no verifiable ghost stories from this historic location, but in terms of "darker" history, it is the scene of a horrible death. James Fitzgibbon, a prominent Torontonion and hero of the War of 1812 lost a son near here when the young man died in this area in one of the more gruesome deaths recorded in early Toronto history. He was sitting on some bleachers near St. Lawrence Market taking in some speeches when the bleachers gave way and collapsed into the cattle-butchers area below... he was impaled on a meat-hook.

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Hockey Hall of Fame: Yonge and Front St West



Torontoghosts' founder and director, Matthew Didier, used to work as a bank teller for the Bank of Montreal (BMO) when this Front St. building was still a functioning branch. Stories about a mysterious teller abounded then, and a few employees refused transfer to this branch because of its resident ghost.

Built in 1888 for BMO, the building remained a branch until 1993 when it became the new Hockey Hall of Fame.

The story he heard while training as a teller goes like this...

In the early part of this century, there was a robbery at the branch in which a young woman was shot and killed. Her apparition is said to wander around the bank, especially near the area where she died -the vault.

Another version of the story gives a name to the teller - Dorothy - and describes her as a distraught young woman who took the bank's pistol, went upstairs and shot herself over a love affair gone bad. It is this later version that is sadly, and tragically the real story.

The apparition of a woman in "old-fashioned" dress has been known to appear near the offices and vault, and there are also reports of mild poltergeist activity, such as lights going on and off and doors opening, closing and locking by themselves that carry on to this day... and with some frequency!

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CLOSING NOTES:

We hope you have enjoyed this little offering... and hopefully it's taught you a little bit about our past and folklore of the city.

We've given a very brief background on many of the stories here (with a few getting some extra attention,) and when you see the words...

For further information, and reports from this location please visit us at www.torontoghosts.org

This meant there was too much to try and cram into this wee booklet and we're hoping you'll visit the site and learn more about these particular places... or really, anywhere that we've heard about in Toronto and the province as a whole!

This "tour booklet" is by no means complete... and in all honesty, if you're a visitor to our city and wish to visit some of the more reported haunted sites around town, Old Fort York, Todmorden Mills, and a visit to even the grounds of Humber College Lakeshore Campus (formerly the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital) would also be very much in order... but too much of a trek to include in this tour...

Again, we also suggest that a guided tour, when possible, is always a great way to spend "ghostly" time in the city... and if you go back to the front page, you'll find a suggestion for one of the better ones available in Toronto!

We thank you for visiting our site (torontoghosts.org) and do hope that you found our offering useful and fun!

The Toronto Ghosts and Hauntings Research Society
www.torontoghosts.org

We are a proud member of PSICAN...

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PSICAN (Paranormal Studies and Investigations Canada)

www.psican.org

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Torontoghosts/Ontarioghosts Mission Statement:

The overall purpose of The Toronto/Ontario Ghosts and Hauntings Research Societies and it's directly related groups and organizations is to examine reports and information of reported perceived paranormal phenomena without prejudice to any hypothesis of causation and to collect and to document these cases from a purely evidentiary point of view to the very best of our abilities.

To learn more about Torontoghosts/Ontarioghosts, see...
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