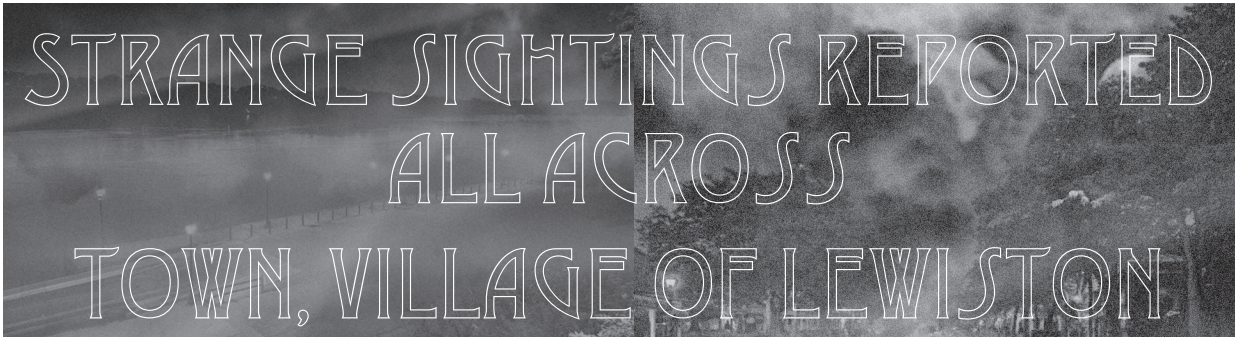


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SPECIAL NEWS
BULLETIN



THE TROLL BENEATH THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE

Hikers say something under the Lewiston-Queenston Bridge has begun collecting tolls of its own

BY DAN GERIOUS KATANA
Editor-in-Grief

Far below the traffic crossing between the United States and Canada, the Artpark Gorge Trail passes beneath the Lewiston-Queenston Bridge. Up above, trucks grind across the steel. Down below, the trail narrows between the wooded slope and the Niagara River, where the air is cooler, the rocks stay damp and every sound carries farther than it should.

That is where hikers have begun finding the coins.

They appear in small, careful stacks beneath the bridge. American quarters are placed on one side of the trail and Canadian coins on the other. Bottle caps, washers and lost keys are arranged nearby, as though someone has been studying the objects and sorting them according to a system that almost makes sense.

Most people assumed it was a prank until a family hiking near dusk heard something moving among the rocks.

It did not sound like a deer. The steps were slow and heavy, followed by the wet scrape of stone against stone. A smell like river mud and crushed leaves drifted across the trail. Then a broad figure



rose from beneath the bridge.

The family described a creature nearly as wide as it was tall, with long arms and a back covered in moss, twigs and tangled pieces of rope. Water ran from its elbows. Small stones clicked together somewhere inside the vegetation clinging to its shoulders.

It extended one enormous hand.

The father offered a granola bar. The creature sniffed it, made a low rumbling sound and shook its head.

His daughter placed a Canadian quarter in its palm.

The troll closed its fingers around the coin, examined both sides and stepped aside. It then pointed farther down the trail, where a fallen tree had blocked the usual route. Behind the creature, a narrow passage between the rocks provided a safe way around it.

The family hurried past. When they looked back, the troll had returned to its place beneath the bridge and was pressing the quarter into a row of coins embedded in the mud.

Since then, hikers have reported hearing deep breathing under the steelwork and finding litter moved into neat piles beside the trail.

Lost keys have reappeared among the coins. Food wrappers left on the ground are said to turn up later inside backpacks that had been securely closed.

The creature has not harmed anyone. It seems concerned mainly with shiny objects, trail cleanliness, and the proper collection of tolls.

Drivers continue paying at the official crossing above.

Those traveling beneath it may wish to carry exact change.

LIGHTS RETURN TO ESCARPMENT

Silent objects hover above Lewiston, repeating movements reported six years earlier

JOCKO LANTERN
Managing, But Not Well

The lights appeared shortly after sunset, just above the dark line of the Niagara Escarpment.

There were three of them. At first, residents mistook them for distant aircraft. The objects were bright white and evenly spaced, forming a narrow triangle over the ridge near Artpark. Yet they did not move forward. They hung motionless against the sky while the clouds passed behind them.

There was no engine noise. A woman walking along Fourth Street stopped when the lights began to descend. Not together, but one at a time. The first dropped sharply, halted and rose again. The second repeated the movement. Then the third.

They were not falling. They were bouncing. Lewiston has recorded a similar unexplained observation before. On Oct. 16, 2020, two people reported watching a distant light hover for approximately 10 minutes. According to the report submitted to the National UFO Reporting Center, the object appeared to “bounce a



bit” while remaining in the same general location. The report identifies Lewiston but does not specify the exact viewing point.

This time, the lights were visible from several parts of the village.

One witness said the objects briefly

aligned above the Lewiston-Queenston Bridge. Another watched them rotate around an empty center without changing their triangular formation. A fisherman at the waterfront reported that the surface of the river began trembling beneath them, though the air remained still.

Dogs barked from nearby yards. Porch lights flickered. A faint metallic vibration seemed to pass through windows and dishes, more felt in the teeth than heard by the ears.

Then every light in the formation turned red.

For several seconds, the escarpment below them was washed in a dim crimson glow. Trees, rocks and the upper walls of the gorge appeared flattened beneath the strange light, as though seen through dark glass.

The objects vanished at once.

They did not accelerate or disappear behind clouds. They simply ceased to be visible. Seconds later, three white lights were reported above the Niagara River, moving north toward Lake Ontario.

Drones remain the most practical explanation. They can hover, maneuver in formation and carry powerful lights. Distance and wind can conceal their sound.

But most drones do not make windows vibrate. Nor do they normally return six years later and repeat a movement described by two previous observers.

Some residents believe the objects were surveying the escarpment. Others suggest they were searching for the ancient location of Niagara Falls, which once stood near Lewiston before carving the gorge southward.

Whatever their purpose, the lights did not land.

They hovered above Lewiston, examined the ridge and departed toward the lake.

Apparently, they found what they were looking for.