

KINGSTIE COMES UPRIVER

Lake Ontario's legendary monster may have entered the Niagara River for the first time

BY SY KEL

Writer on the Storm

The first report came from Lewiston Landing before sunrise.

The river was dark and hard-looking beneath the early light, its surface sliding north toward Lake Ontario. A fisherman preparing his boat heard something strike the underside of the dock. The impact traveled through the boards and into his boots.

Then three black humps rose from the water.

They moved against the current in a perfectly straight line, each one appearing and disappearing with the slow rhythm of something much larger beneath them. The fisherman initially assumed several lake sturgeon were swimming together.

Then the first hump turned.

A long head broke the surface beside the dock. Water poured from a row of dark bristles along its neck. One round eye opened above the river and fixed itself on the fisherman. He later said the creature smelled of wet stone, old weeds and the deep bottom of the lake.

It released a low vibration that rattled the aluminum boats against their cleats.

Then it sank.

By midmorning, boaters were reporting an enormous wake moving upriver toward the gorge. One



charter captain said the disturbance passed beneath his boat and lifted the stern several inches. Another watched the tip of something dark roll above the surface before disappearing under a cloud of bubbles

and torn river grass.

The description quickly revived the legend of Kingstie, Lake Ontario's elusive monster. The name became famous after a 1934 encounter near Kingston, although that particular creature was later described as a hoax involving a barrel, bottles and an artificial head. The wider Lake Ontario monster tradition continued, with the most recent widely repeated modern report occurring near Toronto's docks in 2011.

There is a formidable natural suspect. Adult lake sturgeon commonly

reach 4 to 6 feet, while exceptional individuals can grow to approximately 7 feet and weigh 200 to 300 pounds. They possess armored bodies, whisker-like barbels and a prehistoric profile easily mistaken for something stranger. Lake sturgeon are also documented in the lower Niagara River.

The creature observed at Lewiston, however, appeared considerably longer.

It also seemed to be following the shoreline deliberately, pausing near the docks and circling boats without touching them. Witnesses last saw the humps moving south, toward the narrowing walls of the gorge.

Perhaps Kingstie followed spawning fish into the river. Perhaps it came to investigate the lights, engines and unfamiliar vibrations of Lewiston's waterfront.

Or perhaps, after decades in Lake Ontario, the old monster simply decided to find out where the river came from.

BIGFOOT RAIDS KIWANIS PARK

Large visitor seen sorting garbage & studying recycling instructions after midnight

BY DRAKE C. ULA

Nose for the Truth

The first sign was not a footprint. It was the silence.

Residents near Kiwanis Park noticed that the usual nighttime sounds had stopped. No raccoons fought beneath the pavilion. No dogs barked from the surrounding homes. Even the insects seemed to quiet as something large moved through the grass along Oxbow Lane.

Kiwanis Park sits at 940 Oxbow Lane in the Town of Lewiston, just beyond the village. It includes playgrounds and connects with the town's broader system of recreational paths.

Shortly after midnight, a resident heard a plastic trashcan lid snap open.

Then another.

By morning, every container near the pavilion had been emptied. The contents were not scattered randomly. Food waste had been heaped beneath one table. Paper and cardboard were stacked beside a bench. Plastic bottles stood upright in rows, each one crushed flat by something powerful enough to leave deep, finger-shaped dents in the sides.

In the wet grass beside the playground was a footprint nearly 18



inches long. A security camera from a nearby home provided the clearest account.

The recording showed a tall, dark shape emerging from behind the pavilion. Its shoulders nearly reached the lower branches of a tree. Long arms hung beside a body covered in thick, uneven hair.

The figure carried two garbage bags.

It stopped beside a recycling sign, leaned close and appeared to study the instructions. After several seconds, it opened one bag, removed a glass bottle and placed it in a different container.

The creature then turned toward the camera.

Its eyes briefly reflected the infrared light. Steam rose from its mouth in the cool air. One hand gripped the edge of the trashcan, bending the plastic inward without apparent effort.

Then it moved into the trees.

Searchers later found crushed banana peels, an empty cereal box and several hot dog wrappers near the bike path. Four pickleballs had been arranged in a straight line

beside the pavilion, possibly collected after rolling beneath a fence.

A bear could account for overturned garbage and large tracks. A person in costume could explain the humanlike movement. Neither explanation addresses the careful sorting, the damaged plastic or the apparent concern for recycling rules.

The visitor does not appear dangerous. In fact, the park was cleaner after it left.

Residents are being advised to secure their garbage, avoid leaving food outdoors, and separate glass from plastic correctly.

Someone in Kiwanis Park is paying attention.

