

Tales of Turtle Lake monster keep Saskatchewan locals abuzz

TURTLE LAKE, Sask. (CP) — The Turtle Lake Monster is anywhere from ten to 30 feet long, smooth-skinned or scaly, with or without a fin along its back and has a face like a dog, horse or a pig.

It depends on who you talk to.

The monster has an honored place in local lore, and the legend is printed on placemats at the Northlander Inn, situated on the southern tip of the lake, 160 miles northwest of Saskatoon.

Naturally, the inn serves monster burgers. And Lyle Burkitt, operator of the Lakeview Store, sells Turtle Lake Monster hats.

Catherine Okanee, 84, has lived by the lake for 40 years. "Near Indian Point there are three places where it is very deep," she says. "Just like an underground river. It was said if you went around that area you would never come back because the monster lived there."

Most long-time residents say the monster is actually a giant sturgeon. Northlander Inn waitress Stella Jacobsen believes it, but she's never seen the monster. "I've never had that much to drink."

Ben Blatz ran a lodge for four years on the lake

and he's convinced something out of the ordinary lurks in the depths.

Blatz, a former school teacher, is researching a book about the monster. He says there's no evidence there are sturgeon in the lake, and has another theory to explain the numerous sightings.

Aquatic dinosaurs lived in Saskatchewan millions of years ago when the province was covered by sea. Blatz is particularly intrigued by the long- and short-necked plesiosaurs, reptiles which had long tails, four strong fins and small, smooth heads with a row of tiny, sharp teeth.

As the seas dried up, did the plesiosaurs retreat to the depths of Turtle Lake? Blatz says he has no scientific training that would allow him to make an educated guess.

But he says his research shows that Turtle Lake is similar to other lakes where monsters have been sighted. Like Loch Ness in Scotland and Okanagan Lake in British Columbia (home of the Ogopogo) Turtle Lake is cold, deep and was once part of a sea.

Like the others, Turtle Lake does not give up its dead. Blatz says this could explain why a monster carcass has never been found.

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'White Globe' seen in sky' near Nottingham

MRS. BETTY DAVIES of Lenton Lane, Nottingham, was out walking her dog last night near Charnwood Forest. She reported seeing a 'white globe' hovering in the sky. It approached from the south, then swooped over the centre of Nottingham.

Mrs. Davies was unaccompanied at the time, so her report remains unsubstantiated.

She added later the object moved off in a westerly direction towards Birmingham.

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