

Strange lights in sky

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For sky watchers Wednesday there were some interesting aspects to prevailing conditions other than high winds.

Reports of strange sightings in the early morning sky came from various centres throughout the district, including North Bay and as far distant as Collingwood.

Jack St. Onge, a Tembec employee who lives on a farm at Redbridge, told the Nugget he was doing his morning chores around the farm shortly after 5 a.m., Wednesday, when he noticed a green light in the southern sky.

He said it appeared to be the size of a full moon and seemed to be approaching and growing larger.

"My first thought was Halley's Comet and I called my wife Jane and the kids," he said.

But by the time they came out of the house the big ball had disappeared and two smaller spheres could be seen with what appeared to be light beams coming from them.

"It was a somewhat terrifying experience," he said.

While commuting to Temiscaming with two other men he mentioned the incident. One of the two other fellows said he had seen a similar object but didn't like to mention it because he felt he would be ridiculed.

At the Temiscaming mill Mr. St. Onge mentioned the incident to Rhea Viau, an electrician also employed by Tembec and who lives at Ville Marie, some 80 kilometres north of the pulp town.

Mr. Viau said he had also seen some strange but similar objects in the sky on his way to Temiscaming.

The first was a yellow sphere which remained in view for approximately 10 minutes. Then a purple ball appeared and was visible for a matter of minutes. It disappeared and a few minutes later and a white sphere appeared.

Mr. Viau was travelling in a southerly direction and he said the three objects were clearly visible through the windshield of his vehicle. He also said projections like light beams could be seen on the left sides of the objects.

Two truck drivers who stopped for a coffee break after an early-morning, southbound haul along Hwy. 101 from Ville Marie, told Temiscaming resident Rene (Gibou) Raymond, they had a strange experience near the village of Laniel, 34 kilometres north of Temiscaming.

They said as they crested a hill a white cloud was sighted above the highway in front of them. Believing it to be fog they slowed and the cloud shot straight up into the sky.

Mr. St. Onge said he reported the sightings to the North Bay office of Environment Canada.

Barry Armstrong of Environment Canada, North Bay, told the Nugget there had been reports of other similar sightings, the same morning, from other centres throughout the district, including North Bay and as far as Collingwood.

From Collingwood, Ted Aldridge, who is a professional pilot, reported sightings similar to those seen in this district. The Collingwood resident told the Environment Canada office the sightings had been made by himself and a friend Wednesday morning.

Mr. Armstrong said Jim MacLean, also of the North Bay office of Environment Canada had taken detailed notes of the sightings and compiled a log of the reports.

The Nugget also talked with Master Sgt. Don Weston of CFB North Bay. He said there had been "no indication" of any strange objects being sighted in the area.