

New Hamburg hauntings

A “spirted” Hallowe’en interview

By Marie Voisin

Have you ever walked through downtown New Hamburg after 8 pm at night? It’s like a ghost town and ironically, the town is a receptor for spirits according to a local Sensitive/Spiritualist.

Local Sensitive “Amy,” who wished to remain anonymous, lives in the downtown area and has witnessed the comings and goings of spirits for years. She said that during the ‘witching hours’ between 12:30 and 4:40 a.m., New Hamburg is very active with the spirits who have been unable to cross over to the next life. Spirits are drawn to small towns with their old buildings and land, according to Amy.

Amy was quite young when she realized that some of the people whom she saw were in fact spirits. She was inquisitive about their appearances and studied and practised to be more receptive to their yearnings.

Over time, she became a portal for spirits trying to get to their afterlife. They awaken her at night by turning on lights or by disruptive noises – the dead want to get her attention. She only sees a flash or an impression of what they look like and does not recognize them. There are so many that they have become an intrusion in her life so she no longer attempts to communicate with them as their sorrow remains with her and the heaviness is daunting.

She perceives herself as a border crossing agent - her job is to direct the spirits on their journey to the afterlife. They are truly lost souls and do not know what is happening nor do they realize they are dead.

Amy has seen some vivid spectres on Peel Street. Here are three examples that independent research lends some credence to:

- a young woman who died of typhoid in the early 1900s walks near 27 Peel Street carrying her 11-month-old baby and calls forlornly for her other five children. Research revealed that Mary Reid, who was married to John E. Reid, died of typhoid in 1909 at the age of 26 and lived at the now defunct 5 Peel Street, next to the present day 27 Peel St.
- another young woman, who died of consumption in 1899, holds the hand of her younger brother. They follow



A ghostly apparition cradles her baby in front of a home on Peel Street in New Hamburg. According to a local Sensitive, the street is an active area for spirits. (Photo Special Effects: Lisa Hagen)

behind their father who is riding a white horse. Research indicated that Anna Elizabeth Pletsch lived at 250 Peel in a house that predates the current residence. She was 26, single, and died of consumption. She was with her younger brother, John Jr. when he died in 1880 from the croup. Their father was John Pletsch Sr. who would ride around New Hamburg on his white horse.

- the remnants of a World War One regiment, in dishevelled uniforms, slowly make its way down Peel Street (see

photo below)

When you next wander down the streets of New Hamburg during the witching hours, perhaps you will be more observant. According to Amy, you never know who you will meet. Happy Hallowe’en!



A First World War regiment like this one by New Hamburg’s Hartman Bridge marches to this day in spirit according to a local Sensitive.



MeMe's Cafe

TUES TO FRI 7AM TO 5PM. SAT 8AM TO 3PM.

Menu posted weekly on Facebook and Instagram.

Lunch and dinner items available for take out.

NEW Food Shop!

Speciality food items: olive oils, vinegars, olives, jams, coffee, and more.

Treat yourself to our delicious butter tarts and pies.

Great **gluten-free** desserts, too!

Safe catering options available.

Order by **email** (meredith@memescfe.com),

phone (519-662-2828),

or **in-store** (max. two people at a time).

102 PEEL ST., NEW HAMBURG