

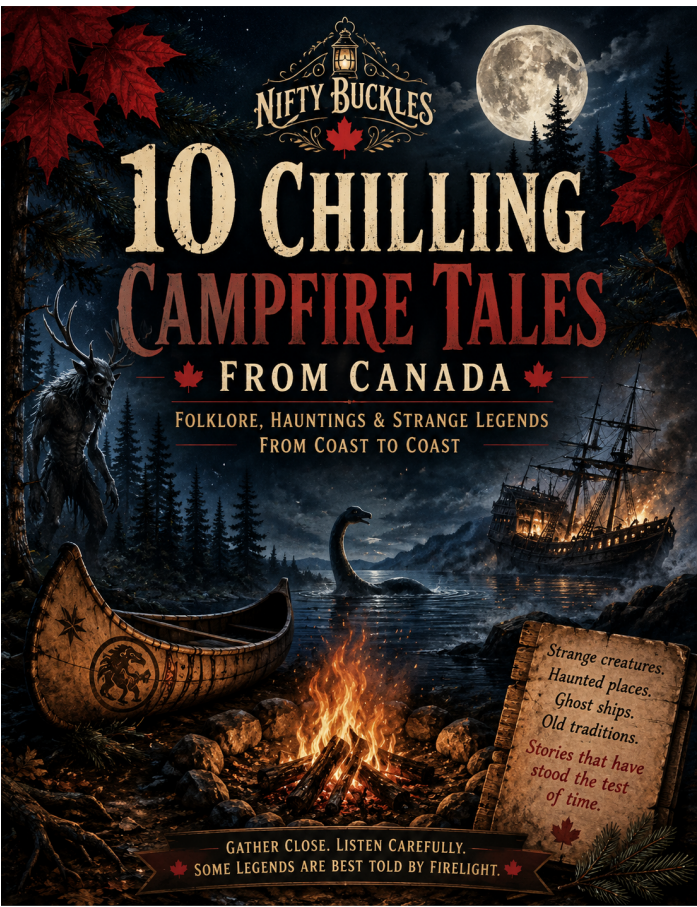
NIFTY BUCKLES

10 CHILLING CAMPFIRE TALES

FROM CANADA
FOLKLORE, HAUNTINGS & STRANGE LEGENDS
FROM COAST TO COAST

Strange creatures.
Haunted places.
Ghost ships.
Old traditions.
Stories that have
stood the test
of time.

GATHER CLOSE. LISTEN CAREFULLY.
SOME LEGENDS ARE BEST TOLD BY FIRELIGHT.



Copyright ©2026 by Nifty Buckles

All rights reserved.

No portion of this book may be reproduced in any form without written permission from the publisher or author, except as permitted by U.S. copyright law.

Happy Canada Day!

To the storytellers who kept Canada's legends alive. To the elders, families, and campfire companions who passed these tales from one generation to the next, preserving the mysteries of haunted valleys, restless spirits, ghost ships, and creatures said to wander our forests and lakes. And to every reader who still looks twice into the darkness, wondering what might be waiting just beyond the firelight.

May these stories keep the magic of Canadian folklore burning brightly for generations to come.

Happy Canada Day!



*Happy Canada
Day! Love Nifty
Buckles & Mr.
Skittles*

Folklore Books by Valerie Hopkins/ Nifty Buckles

□ Granny Magic Chocolates



A heartwarming Appalachian tale where old-fashioned folk magic, homemade chocolates, and kindness prove to be the sweetest recipe of all.



*Granny
Magic
Choco-
lates*

Midsummer Fairies & Forest Friends

An enchanting adult coloring book celebrating fairies, woodland creatures, the Green Man, Pan, fairy trees, and the magic of the Summer Solstice.



*Midsummer
Fairies
& Forest
Friends*

March Madness: Leprechauns, Hares & Witches Folklore

Journey through the folklore of spring with whimsical illustrations inspired by Irish leprechauns, magical hares, and legendary witches from around the world.



Petals & Poetry Garden Journal

A beautifully illustrated journal created for gardeners, dreamers, poets, and lovers of flowers, folklore, and the changing seasons.



*Petals & Poetry
Garden Journal*

Coming Soon

Wickedly Delicious

A delightfully dark Victorian comedy where chocolate, eccentric spirits, and one very unusual carnivorous rose make for a wickedly unforgettable tale.



*Wickedly De-
licious*

Visit:

NiftyBucklesFolklore.fun

Contents

Campfire Tale #1	1
Campfire Tale #2	3
Campfire Tale #3	6
Campfire Tale #4	8
Campfire Tale #5	10
Campfire Tale #6	13
Campfire Tale #7	15
Campfire Tale #8	18
Campfire Tale #9	21
Campfire Tale #10	24

Campfire Tale #1

Some nights, the greatest terror isn't what waits outside your window... it's what sits upon your chest."

As fierce Atlantic storms battered the rocky shores of Newfoundland, families gathered around warm kitchen stoves and crackling fires to tell stories that blurred the line between dream and waking. Among the most chilling was the tale of the Old Hag, a mysterious spirit said to visit sleeping victims in the dead of night.



Old Hag Folklore

Those who were "hagged" awoke unable to move or cry out. A crushing weight pressed against their chest while a shadowy figure watched from the darkness. Some described the Old Hag as an ancient witch with wild hair and glowing eyes. Others saw only a black shape standing silently at the foot of the bed before climbing onto them.

Long before doctors recognized sleep paralysis, Newfoundlanders believed the Hag was all too real. To keep her away, people placed a Bible beneath their pillow, turned their shoes upside down beside the bed, or left a broom by the door, believing the Hag would stop to count every straw before entering.

Even today, many people in Newfoundland still describe an episode of sleep paralysis by saying they were "hagged."

Campfire Question:

If you woke in the middle of the night and couldn't move, would you blame a dream... or the Old Hag?

Campfire Tale #2

***"W**hen a ship burns without smoke, some say the sea is remembering the dead."*

For more than two hundred years, people living along the shores of the Northumberland Strait have reported an extraordinary sight. On dark autumn evenings, a tall sailing ship appears on the horizon engulfed in bright orange flames. Its masts blaze against the night sky as though consumed by a raging fire, yet no smoke rises above the vessel and no cries for help echo across the water.



*The Ghost Ship of the
Northumberland Strait*

Alarmed fishermen and coastal residents have launched boats to rescue the crew, only to watch the burning ship suddenly vanish before they arrive. No wreckage is ever found. The sea simply grows quiet once again, as though nothing had happened.

Stories of the phantom vessel have been passed from generation to generation throughout Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. Some believe it is the restless spirit of a ship lost long ago to fire. Others say it appears as a warning before storms or tragedy at sea. Even modern witnesses have reported seeing the mysterious flames dancing across the Strait before disappearing into the fog.

Scientists have suggested that unusual atmospheric conditions, known as superior mirages, may create strange illusions over the water. Yet those who have witnessed the Ghost Ship often insist it looks far too vivid and lifelike to be explained so easily.

Whether a trick of light or a lingering echo from the past, the Ghost Ship of the Northumberland Strait remains one of Canada's greatest maritime mysteries. On quiet nights, when the fog drifts low and the moon glows over the Atlantic, many still find themselves watching the horizon, wondering if the burning ship will appear once more.

Campfire Question

If you saw a ship burning silently in the distance, would you race to rescue those aboard... or stay safely on shore and watch the mystery unfold?

Campfire Tale #3

"Not every monster lurks beneath the ocean. Some prefer the quiet waters of a lonely lake."

Long before tales of Scotland's Loch Ness Monster became world famous, people in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, were whispering about another mysterious creature. Deep within the calm waters of Lake Ainslie, witnesses claimed to have seen a strange serpent-like animal gliding silently across the surface. They called the elusive creature Cressie.



*Cressie Cape Breton's Hidden
Lake Monster*

Descriptions of Cressie vary from one eyewitness to another, but many agree on several details. The creature is said to have a long, dark body with graceful humps rising above the water, a slender neck, and

a small horse-like head. It moves without creating much of a wake, silently disappearing beneath the lake before curious onlookers can get a closer look.

For generations, fishermen, boaters, and local residents have shared stories of unexpected encounters. Some spotted Cressie basking in the early morning mist, while others watched the mysterious figure slip beneath the waves as if avoiding human attention. Though photographs and scientific proof remain elusive, the legend has become an enduring part of Cape Breton folklore.

Some believe Cressie is an undiscovered species that has survived since prehistoric times. Others see the creature as a guardian spirit of the lake, appearing only to those fortunate enough to catch a glimpse.

Whether legend, living relic, or a trick of light upon the water, Cressie continues to stir the imagination of everyone who visits the peaceful shores of Lake Ainslie.

Campfire Question

If you noticed a long shadow gliding silently beneath your canoe, would you lean in for a closer look... or paddle quickly back to shore?

Campfire Tale #4

"On New Year's Eve, a desperate bargain carried voyageurs across the moonlit sky... but the Devil always expected payment."

During the days of New France, French Canadian voyageurs often spent long winters deep in the wilderness, separated from their families by hundreds of kilometres. As New Year's Eve approached, homesickness weighed heavily on their hearts. Longing to celebrate with loved ones, they wished for a miracle that would carry them home before midnight.

According to legend, the Devil offered exactly that.

In exchange for their souls, he enchanted an ordinary birchbark canoe, allowing it to soar through the night sky. The bargain came with strict conditions. The voyageurs must not speak God's name, touch the steeple of a church, or delay their return. If they broke any of these rules, the Devil would claim every soul aboard.

The canoe rose into the air, gliding over snow-covered forests, frozen rivers, and sleeping villages beneath the glow of the winter moon. For a few precious hours, the voyageurs laughed, feasted, and celebrated with their families, never forgetting the race against time.



The Flying Canoe

As midnight drew near, they climbed back into the enchanted canoe and flew into the darkness. A sudden storm tossed them through the sky, church steeples loomed below, and panic spread among the crew. Some versions of the tale say they narrowly escaped by reaching camp just before the final stroke of midnight. Others warn that those who broke the Devil's bargain were never seen again.

Today, La Chasse-Galerie, or The Flying Canoe, remains one of Canada's greatest legends, reminding us that shortcuts often come with a price no one should be willing to pay.

Campfire Question

If a magical canoe could carry you anywhere in a single night, would you risk making a bargain with the Devil... or stay safely beside the fire

Campfire Tale #5

"Some say the cold can change a person's body. Others believe it can consume the soul."

Across the vast northern forests of Canada, the Algonquian-speaking First Nations have long told stories of the Wendigo, a terrifying spirit associated with endless hunger, greed, and the darkest days of winter. The legend has been shared in different forms by several Indigenous nations, each with its own traditions and teachings.



Wendigo

The Wendigo is often described as unnaturally tall and painfully thin, with glowing eyes, long claws, and skin stretched tightly over its bones. No matter how much it consumes, its hunger can never be satisfied. Some stories say it grows larger with every meal, ensuring that it remains forever starving.

According to traditional teachings, the Wendigo is more than a monster lurking in the wilderness. It represents what can happen when a person allows greed, selfishness, or desperation to overcome compassion and humanity. During harsh winters, when food was scarce, the legend served as a warning against abandoning one's moral values, even in the face of unimaginable hardship.

Northern Ontario • Algonquian Traditional Territory

Author's Note: The Wendigo is part of the sacred storytelling traditions of several Algonquian-speaking Indigenous nations. This chapter is shared with respect for those living traditions and is presented as folklore rather than a complete representation of its cultural significance.

Hunters traveling alone through the snowy forests sometimes spoke of hearing strange cries carried on the wind or discovering enormous footprints that vanished into the trees. Whether these stories described a supernatural being or reflected the dangers of surviving Canada's unforgiving winters, the Wendigo became one of the country's most enduring legends.

Today, the Wendigo remains a powerful figure in Canadian folklore, reminding us that the greatest dangers are not always those waiting in the forest, but those that can grow within the human heart.

Campfire Question

If you heard something calling your name from deep within the snowy woods, would you follow the sound... or keep the campfire burning and stay where you are?

Campfire Tale #6

"Some nights, the wind carries more than echoes."

Hidden beneath an old railway line near **Niagara Falls, Ontario**, stands a small stone tunnel that has earned a chilling reputation for unexplained sounds and ghostly encounters. Known simply as **The Screaming Tunnel**, it has fascinated thrill-seekers and storytellers for generations.

The most famous legend tells of a young girl who lived in a nearby farmhouse during the nineteenth century. One terrible night, a fire broke out, trapping her inside. Her clothing caught fire, and in desperation she fled toward the tunnel, screaming as she ran. Before anyone could save her, she collapsed near its entrance and died from her injuries. Locals say her terrified cries never faded from the stone walls.

Over the years, visitors have claimed to hear faint screams echoing through the darkness when no one else is around. Others report feeling an icy chill, even on warm summer nights, or sensing that someone is standing just behind them. Some have seen strange lights flickering inside the tunnel, while others speak of shadowy figures disappearing into the darkness.

A popular local tradition challenges brave visitors to stand in the centre of the tunnel at night and light a wooden match. According

to the legend, the flame may suddenly go out on its own, and in the silence that follows, the distant cry of the young girl can sometimes be heard. Whether caused by drafts, imagination, or something beyond explanation, the ritual has become part of Niagara's enduring folklore.



*The Ghost Girl of the Screaming
Tunnel*

Historians note that there is little documented evidence supporting the tragic tale, and several versions of the story exist. Yet legends often grow from mystery rather than certainty. For many, the Screaming Tunnel is less about proving what happened and more about experiencing the unsettling feeling that some places never quite let go of the past.

Today, the tunnel remains one of Ontario's best-known haunted locations. Visitors still gather after sunset, flashlights in hand, hoping to hear the whisper of history... or perhaps something far older waiting in the dark.

Campfire Question

Would you dare stand alone in the tunnel after sunset with nothing but a single burning match... or would you leave the mystery undisturbed?

Campfire Tale #7

"Some places grow quiet after sunset. Others seem to be listening."

Hidden among the rolling farmland of Saskatchewan lies the historic village of Marysburg, home to the beautiful Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church. By day, the peaceful countryside appears much like any other prairie community. But after dark, local legends tell a far different story.



*Marysburg
Assumption
Church -
Headless Nun*

For decades, whispers have surrounded the lonely roads and wooded areas near the old church. Visitors have reported an overwhelming feeling of being watched long before they reach the grounds. Some claim to hear footsteps crunching across the gravel behind them, only to turn and find no one there.

One of the most chilling legends speaks of a headless nun wandering silently through the darkness. Witnesses describe a shadowy figure dressed in a flowing black habit, drifting slowly between the trees or across the churchyard before vanishing without a sound. Others have reported seeing pairs of glowing red eyes staring from the edge of the forest, disappearing the moment they are noticed.

Campers and late-night drivers have shared equally unsettling experiences. Vehicles have mysteriously stalled near the church, headlights have flickered without explanation, and campfires have suddenly gone out despite calm weather. Many describe an intense feeling of dread, as though an unseen presence is urging them to leave.

No one knows exactly how the stories began. Some believe they grew from old tragedies now forgotten by history, while others think generations of whispered tales have transformed an ordinary place into one of Saskatchewan's most enduring haunted legends. Whether the strange experiences have natural explanations or something more mysterious lies beneath them remains a matter of debate.

Today, Marysburg continues to attract curious visitors, paranormal investigators, and brave travelers hoping to witness the unexplained for themselves. Most leave with only memories of a quiet prairie night. A few leave convinced they were not alone.

Campfire Question

If two glowing red eyes appeared beyond the reach of your campfire, would you step closer to investigate... or quietly add another log to the fire and wait for dawn?

Campfire Tale #8

"Some places guard their secrets so fiercely that those who seek them are never seen again."

Deep within the rugged wilderness of Canada's Northwest Territories lies the breathtaking Nahanni Valley, a land of towering mountains, roaring waterfalls, and untouched forests. While its beauty draws adventurers from around the world, the valley is equally famous for a far darker reputation. For generations, it has been known as The Headless Valley.

The legend began in the early 1900s during the Klondike Gold Rush. Prospectors searching for hidden riches disappeared into the valley, hoping to strike it rich. Some never returned. Others were later discovered dead under mysterious circumstances, their bodies found without their heads. The gruesome discoveries fueled stories that something sinister lurked deep within the wilderness.

The Waheela: Among the darkest legends of Nahanni is the Waheela, *a colossal white wolf* said to roam the valley's remote canyons. Some cryptozoologists believe this fearsome beast, or perhaps a surviving prehistoric bear-dog, was responsible for the grisly decapitations that gave Headless Valley its sinister name. Skeptics point instead to the enormous Mackenzie Valley

wolves, whose sheer size may have inspired tales of a supernatural predator stalking the wilderness.



Giant White Wolf

The Nuk-Luk: Among the eerie legends of Nahanni's Headless Valley is *the Nuk-Luk*, a towering, shaggy "man of the bush" said to dwell within the valley's remote caves and rugged canyons. Often described as a giant, human-like creature covered in thick dark hair, the Nuk-Luk resembles the Sasquatch legends found throughout western Canada. Hunters and trappers spoke of discovering enormous footprints, hearing strange whistles echo through the cliffs, and catching glimpses of a massive figure silently watching from the shadows before melting back into the wilderness. Whether an undiscovered hominid or simply another of Nahanni's enduring mysteries, the Nuk-Luk remains one of the valley's most elusive legends.



The Nuk Luk

Today, Nahanni National Park Reserve is celebrated as one of Canada's greatest natural treasures and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Thousands of visitors explore its spectacular rivers and mountains each year without incident. Even so, many guides admit there are places where the silence feels unusually heavy, and where the wilderness seems to watch those who enter.

Whether the Headless Valley's mysteries stem from forgotten crimes, the unforgiving power of nature, or legends carried through generations, Nahanni remains one of Canada's most fascinating and unsettling places.

Campfire Question

If someone offered to lead you into a valley where treasure was said to be hidden, but many who searched for it never returned, would you accept the journey... or leave its secrets buried forever?ard their secrets so fiercely that those who seek them are never seen again."

Campfire Tale #9

"When the lake is perfectly still, some believe something ancient is watching from below."

Stretching for more than 130 kilometres through the heart of British Columbia, Okanagan Lake is renowned for its sparkling waters, vineyards, and breathtaking mountain scenery. Yet beneath its tranquil surface lies one of Canada's oldest and most enduring legends, the mysterious creature known as Ogopogo.

The Spirit of the Lake: Long before the legend of Ogopogo, the Syilx (Okanagan) People honored N'ha-a-itk, the sacred spirit of Okanagan Lake. Rather than a monster, N'ha-a-itk was revered as a powerful guardian of the waters. Travelers traditionally made offerings before crossing the lake, seeking safe passage and showing respect for its life-giving power. The story continues to remind us that the health of the lake and the well-being of its people are forever connected. In 2021, the rights to the name Ogopogo were officially transferred to the Syilx Nation, recognizing the legend's Indigenous origins.



Ogoopogo, the Syilx (Okanagan) First Nations' honored N'ha-a-itk

In the early twentieth century, newspapers began reporting sightings of a long, dark creature moving across the lake. Witnesses described a serpent-like body with several humps rising above the water, gliding silently without creating much of a wake. Others claimed to see a horse-like head or a long tail disappearing beneath the surface.

Over the decades, hundreds of people have reported unusual encounters. Boaters have watched unexplained wakes race across calm water. Swimmers have glimpsed dark shapes beneath them. Photographers have captured mysterious ripples and distant silhouettes, though none have provided conclusive proof of the creature's existence.

Scientists suggest that floating logs, large fish, waves, or unusual lighting conditions may explain many sightings. Yet believers remain convinced that something extraordinary inhabits the lake. Whether ancient guardian, undiscovered animal, or enduring legend, Ogoopogo continues to capture imaginations from around the world.

Today, visitors to Okanagan Lake still keep an eye on the water. On quiet mornings, when the mist hangs low over the surface and the mountains reflect like glass, it is easy to understand why the legend refuses to disappear.

Campfire Question

If you saw several dark humps gliding silently across the lake toward your canoe, would you reach for your camera... or your paddle?

Campfire Tale

#10



Sasquatch in B.C. Forests

"If the forest suddenly falls silent, some say you're no longer alone."

Towering cedar forests, mist-covered mountains, and hidden valleys stretch across the rugged wilderness of British Columbia, creating one of the last great expanses of untamed forest in North America. For countless generations, stories have been

told of a mysterious giant who walks quietly among the ancient trees. Most people know the creature as Sasquatch.

The name Sasquatch comes from the Halkomelem language spoken by the Stó:lō People of southwestern British Columbia. Long before newspapers and television popularized the legend, many Indigenous Nations of the Pacific Northwest shared stories of large, human-like beings that lived deep within the forests. While each Nation has its own traditions and teachings, these stories often describe powerful beings deserving of respect rather than fear.

Modern sightings began attracting worldwide attention during the twentieth century. Hikers, hunters, and campers have reported seeing a towering figure, often standing between seven and ten feet tall, covered in dark brown or reddish hair. Witnesses describe broad shoulders, unusually long arms, and enormous footprints pressed into soft earth or fresh snow.

Some encounters last only seconds. A branch snaps in the distance. Heavy footsteps echo through the trees. A dark figure steps from behind a cedar, watches silently, then disappears into the forest with astonishing speed. Others report hearing strange howls or wood knocks echoing across remote valleys, sounds unlike those of any known animal.

Despite decades of investigations, no conclusive scientific evidence has confirmed Sasquatch's existence. Researchers have suggested that mistaken identity, black bears walking upright,

or human imagination may explain many sightings. Yet year after year, new reports continue to emerge from British Columbia's vast wilderness.

Whether Sasquatch is an undiscovered species, a guardian of the ancient forests, or simply one of Canada's greatest mysteries, the legend continues to capture imaginations around the world. Perhaps that is why so many people venture into the wilderness hoping to glimpse what others claim to have seen.

As the campfire burns low and the stars brighten above the towering pines, one question remains. If something enormous were watching from just beyond the trees, would you ever know?

Campfire Question

If you discovered a line of giant footprints leading into a silent forest, would you follow them... or quietly walk back to camp?