

July 6

Nith River Monster-



In July of 1953, mysterious footprints were found along the banks of the Nith River in New Hamburg. Rumours and stories began to fly about what could be making these prints.... was it a human trying to scare people or was it a monster? This perplexed and caused much excitement for the village thrusting it onto the national stage.

From the New Hamburg Independent- July 1953

"The topic of most conversation in New Hamburg these days is of the "thing" that has been leaving a weird trail through parts of the north and western sections of town during the past week or so. No one has yet claimed to have seen "It", but a number of local citizens have reported seeing a trail which is as yet unexplained. It is described as being a continuous "groove" about the width of a bicycle tire or wider, with claw prints, size of which vary with the observer, and the marks are variously described as three, four or five toed, but Chief of Police George Thomas stated the prints are three-toed."

Reports indicated that similar, but slightly smaller trails have been observed some two or three years ago, but only recently has any publicity been given the "thing". Several theories explain the tracks as being made by a lizard, snake, alligator, coon or large turtle, and the only person to have seen what he thought might be the cause of the mystery, was Chief Thomas, who stated it was too dark at the time to be positive of any accurate description, although he estimated the animal to be about two and a half feet long, and weighing perhaps as much as 50 pounds.

Considerable publicity has been given the mystery in provincial daily newspapers and radio news broadcasts earlier this week. One radio report suggested the possibility that the tracks were made by a Bittern or Blue Heron, but the presence of the prints is considered by some to rule out the theory that the

tracks were left by a bird. The turtle theory also received a jolt by those who claim that the animal left tracks between garden plants without crushing or bending them aside as a turtle might have done.

Several citizens reported that they had seen the same type of trail for the past few years, but hesitated to report it for fear of ridicule.

The mystery has been given wide publicity throughout Ontario. Other theories about the animal causing the trail range from some large, lizard-like animal to a dog dragging a chain, but arguments are rather vague, and no positive explanation has yet been offered. The mystery has provided an unusual topic of conversation for old and young alike, including some skeptics who are amused by the affair. One redeeming feature of the subject is that no one has reported seeing a flying saucer, so it is doubtful if science fiction fans will advance the theory that the "thing" came from outer space."

Activities: From the description above can you draw an image of the Nith River Monster?