

= Mussie =

Mussie , also known as Hapyxelor or Hapaxelor , is a cryptid , an animal whose existence is the subject of folklore but has not been proven , that is rumored to live in Muskrat Lake in the Canadian province of Ontario . The creature 's age , gender , and physical appearance are not agreed upon ; it is variously described , for example , as a walrus or as a three @-@ eyed Loch Ness Monster @-@ like creature . It is also not agreed upon whether Mussie is a single creature or a species .

The legend of Mussie likely began around 1916 , though folk tales claim that Canadian pioneer Samuel de Champlain wrote about it in the early seventeenth century . Despite the futility of numerous attempts to locate or capture Mussie , it has become a part of the local culture and a fixture in the local tourism industry .

= = Characteristics = =

Mussie 's name is a diminutive form of the name of its reported location : Muskrat Lake , a large , deep lake near the village of Cobden , Ontario , and about 75 miles northwest of Ottawa . Muskrat Lake is home to another paranormal phenomenon : local legends state that an Atomic Energy of Canada bus driver saw an extraterrestrial spacecraft landing on a spot atop a hill and leaving . There is indeed a dark @-@ colored , circular outline on this hill where grass does not grow , with no widely accepted cause .

There is no single accepted portrayal of Mussie 's age , its gender , or even whether it is a single , long @-@ lived creature or a species . Some residents claim that a single , very old Mussie ? or a member of its species ? first arrived in the area , then covered by the ocean , about 10 @,@ 000 years ago . In this tale , glaciers and , later , solid landmasses built up around it , forming the lake , and Mussie was trapped . Mussie 's diet , according to self @-@ proclaimed observer Donnie Humphries , consists at least partially of cattails found near the edge of the lake .

Descriptions of Mussie 's physical appearance are inconsistent . In local folklore , it has variously been portrayed as akin to a walrus ; a sturgeon or other fish ; or a Loch Ness Monster with three eyes and sharper teeth . Another oft @-@ cited description from local historian James F. Robison is as follows :

= = History = =

The presence of a large , unusual creature in Muskrat Lake has been the subject of anecdotes since 1916 . The creature 's name was originally cited as Hapyxelor , alternately spelled Hapaxelor , but changed simply to Mussie , short for The Monster of Muskrat Lake , sometime later . Humphries , a man from Cobden , was a well @-@ known proponent of Mussie 's existence . Around the area , many people 's knowledge of the creature come from his vehement , albeit inconsistent , tales of observing it once .

Some residents claim that , independent of the truth of the Mussie legend , the legend 's origins are older : supposedly , early settler Samuel de Champlain wrote of the creature 's existence in the early seventeenth century . However , no concrete evidence of such writings has been uncovered , even though Champlain did write of loud screams from sea monsters living in the Grand Banks of Newfoundland .

Author Michael Bradley and friend Deanna Theilmann @-@ Beann searched for Mussie in the Nepenthe , a boat with sonar technology . With their sonar , they found two creatures they hypothesized could be two marine mammals , three metres long . Bradley concluded that at least one creature compatible with Mussie 's description lived in the lake , though he did not investigate the creatures further . Scientists have also surveyed the area and found nothing , though the definitive nonexistence of a Mussie @-@ like creature is difficult to establish because some of the trenches in Muskrat Lake extend to over 60 metres .

= = In culture = =

Mussie has become a cultural mascot of the area , appearing on signs welcoming visitors to Cobden and in front of the Home Hardware store in the village . It is not usually portrayed as fearsome ; it is given seasonal accessories to mark holidays , like a Santa Claus hat for Christmas . The creature 's economic value through the tourism industry has caused it to be described as " recession @-@ fighting " in local folk songs .

Every year , visitors in the Muskrat Lake area search for Mussie in the lake ; none have yet captured evidence of its existence . In the 1990s , a tourism marketing campaign for the area offered CAN \$ 1 million to anyone who could capture a live specimen , but no one did . Mussie is referenced in travel pamphlets for the Whitewater Region area ; one suggests that it can be caught by a fishing rod .