

The Hockey Hall of Fame— Where Legends Live On . . . and On and On



The Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto was created to showcase all things hockey: the best players, games, and coaches. It's no surprise that legends come alive there—it's a place where stars of the sport live on forever. So you probably wouldn't be surprised to find a ghost hanging around its hallowed halls, but you might be surprised to learn that she has absolutely nothing to do with hockey.

Dorothy Who?

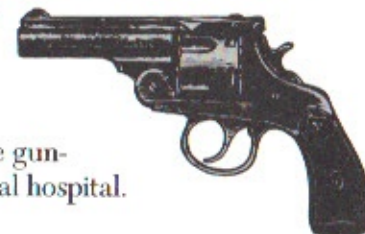
Situated on the corner of Yonge and Front Streets in downtown Toronto, the Hockey Hall of Fame resides in a beautiful old building that has the look of a cathedral, complete with a stained-glass dome. Built in 1885, the structure was home to the Bank of Montreal before it closed in 1982; the Hall moved into the building a decade later.

Over the years, there have been many theories regarding the building's resident ghost, Dorothy. As you can imagine, a lot of speculation has surrounded how the young woman died . . . and why she stayed. Some thought that she was the victim of a robbery gone wrong. Others thought she was involved in an embezzling scheme and that she took her own life when the crime was uncovered. But most believed she was caught up in a tragic love affair. One version of the tale suggested that her boyfriend left to take "a job on the boats"; another told of her involvement with a married coworker.

In 2009, the *Toronto Star* conducted a thorough investigation of Dorothy and her mysterious demise. With that, the pieces started coming together.

In 1953, 19-year-old Dorothea Mae Elliott was working at the Bank of Montreal as a teller. She was a vivacious brunette, popular with coworkers and customers alike. Orphaned at nine years old, Dorothy didn't let her sad childhood get her down; in fact, friends and coworkers described her as "the most popular girl in the bank" and "the life of the party."

But on March 11, 1953, when Dorothy arrived at the bank, she appeared to be distressed and her clothing was disheveled. It would later be discovered that she had been involved in a romantic liaison with her bank manager—a married man—and when he chose to end the relationship, she was heartbroken. At some point, she discreetly removed the bank's .38-caliber revolver from a drawer and headed to the women's restroom on the second floor. At around 9 A.M., another female employee entered the room and began to scream: Dorothy had shot herself in the head and no one had even heard the gunshot. She died the next morning at a local hospital.



Cold Spots

Over the years, many employees, customers, and other visitors to the building have experienced odd phenomena, all of which have been attributed to Dorothy. Lights turn on and off on their own, and locked doors open by themselves when no one is around. People working in the building late at night have heard mysterious footsteps, and many have reported hearing moans and screams.

One worker who was setting up for an event witnessed a chair spinning around and around until it moved right into his hand. And while performing at an event in the building, harpist Joanna Jordan actually saw Dorothy's ghost along the second-floor ceiling. When she was invited to play there again, Jordan refused to venture onto that floor alone.

So attached was Dorothy to the old bank building that she remained there even after it was taken over by hockey fans and memorabilia. One young boy visiting the Hall also saw Dorothy's apparition; he screamed after glimpsing a woman with long dark hair gliding back and forth through the walls. Isn't there a penalty for that?



"There are some human beings who are dimly aware of their own deaths, yet have chosen to stay on in what used to be their homes, to be close to surroundings they once held dear."

—Hans Holzer