Canuck Article

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MAN OR GORILLA? The Extraordinary Character Who is Scaring Canucks
[name for Canadians— goes back a long way]

Ottawa, Ont., Aug. 1 – Pembroke, about one hundred miles north of Ottawa has a lively sensation in the shape of a wild man eight feet high and covered with hair. His haunts are on Prettis [Pretties] Island, [actually not an island] a short distance from he town, and the people are so terrified that no one has dared to venture on the island for several weeks. Two raftsmen named Toughey and Sallman, armed with weapons, plucked up sufficient courage to scour the woods in the hope of seeing the monster. About 3 o'clock in the afternoon their curiosity was rewarded. He emerged from a thicket having in one hand a tomahawk made of stone and in the other a bludgeon. His appearance struck such terror in the hearts of the raftsmen that they made tracks for the boat which was moored by the beach. The giant followed them, uttering demoniacal yells and gesticulating wildly. They had barely time to get into the boat and pull a short distance out into the stream when he hurled the tomahawk after them, striking Toughey in the arm and fracturing it. Sallman fired two shots but neither took effect, the giant retreating hurriedly at the first sound of firearms. It is more that probable that the townspeople will arrange an expedition to capture, if possible, what Tougher describes as a man who looks like a gorilla, wandering about in a perfectly nude condition, and, with the exception of the face, completely covered with a thick growth of black hair.

End of Article

Although intriguing, we have to wonder why the men, who had guns, did not stand their ground and shoot the oddity. It is evident they had enough courage to look for it in the first place, so something is not quite right here. We don't have a lot of evidence of these "homins" carrying weapons of some sort, nevertheless such are plausible.

There are so many articles of this nature in the late 1800s and early 1900s that one starts to get a little skeptical after a while. It was not until the advent of the Internet that researchers like Scott McClean brought them to light. There were so few know before that writers snapped them up for their books. Now they form a book unto itself. I documented them up to 1899 <http://www.sasquatchcanada.com/uploads/9/4/5/1/945132/sc_-_earliest_to_1899.pdf>. I carried on into the 1900s but the work got so large I decided to change course and just concentrate on British Columbia.

I definitely get the impression that newspaper people knew people loved this sort of thing so went out of their way to give them what they wanted. I suppose there is always a grain of truth somewhere, but became less and less inspired because hard evidence was always lacking.

Few scientists accept anything "scientific" in newspapers unless it originated from a scientific source, so this "wonderful" material makes virtually no inroads.

Anyway, I suppose we can wonder what happened to the Pretties Island homin. His remains have not come to light as far as we know, The "island" appears to have a fairly large population according to the real estate listings, so our "homin's haunts" are now likely houses and condos.