

Haunted Hotel Brunch

In [life on the prairies](#)

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Tonight, Renée and I are spending the evening at the historic [Fort Garry Hotel](#), which was (I believe) the first hotel to open in Winnipeg.



Built by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway in 1913 (when Winnipeg was referred to as “the Chicago of the North”), the hotel has been a fixture of the Winnipeg skyline for years. It’s a gorgeous example of turn-of-the-century architecture, but was nearly closed after falling into heavy debt in the early ‘90’s.

Thankfully there was a drive to keep the hotel open, and after fundraising, a savvy marketing campaign, and extensive restorations, the Hotel is doing well.

The Hotel holds a special place for Renée and I, as it was one of the first places that we went out to when we first started dating. The main floor piano lounge, called the “Oval Room”, is utterly gorgeous and never fails to leave me feeling like I’ve been transported to another age.

As with most heritage buildings, the rumours have been passed around for years that the Hotel is haunted. Workers have reported strange sounds, hotel guests have seen bizarre lights, and Room 202 is said to be visited by the long dead ghost in a white ball gown. We’ve never seen anything spooky there yet, but I have my fingers crossed...

What’s even better is that the cost of a room includes brunch for two the next day. I am a brunch monster, and the Hotel has possibly the best brunch in town. I’m already getting hungry. Brunch is just so... decadent.

I'm hoping we can get a tour. I'll take pictures if we do - the ballroom is supposed to be magnificent.

This here entry was posted January 04, 2003 04:42 PM



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Comments

[1](#) POSTED BY: [DONNA](#) AT JANUARY 7, 2003 5:26 PM

Ah, I loved the Fort Garry - I stayed there when I went on a polar bear watching trip two years ago, and was absolutely charmed; plus they have terrycloth robes and little Aveda bath products - what's not to love? Have a good time!

[2](#) POSTED BY: [PAUL](#) AT JANUARY 15, 2003 12:04 PM

Hi Neil old buddy,

Nice piece on the old Fort Garry Hotel. I think your in error when you wrote that the hotel was the first to open in the city. In actuality, there where many that had opened way before this one, although far from glamorous as the ol' Fort Garry. All along Main street, from the CP station to Portage and Main, and beyond was dotted with a ramshackle of cheep to nice hotels. Most of them, including the grandest of them all, the Royal Alexandra, have all but vanished. Let's hope we keep what's there, and not succumb to the Eaton'e Bldg. way of thinking.

[3](#) POSTED BY: [NEIL](#) AT JANUARY 15, 2003 6:33 PM

Speaking of Eaton's, I should really post some photos of what's left. For those of you who are from / once lived in Winnipeg, the Eaton's building is now just a gigantic pile of rubble.

It's been rather heartrending watching it fall; like seeing a defenseless person getting their clothes ripped off of them rag by rag, until all that's left is naked shame.

[4](#) POSTED BY: [DEBBIE](#) AT AUGUST 13, 2003 5:14 AM

i thought that the story was good but i expected it to be a ghost activity but anyway it was really good so keep up the good work

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Je t'aime beaucoup.

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