

## AN IN THE HILLS MINI-MYSTERY

### Mining the Hamlets

Without signs at the side of the road to help, it's not easy to know just when you are passing through the hamlet of **Kilgorie** in Mulmur Township, and even harder to know when you are in **Peepabun**, a hamlet which once graced the southwest corner of East Luther Grand Valley.

Help raise the profile of these community names with this anagram competition. In the letters of **Kilgorie** you can find words such as *like*, *ore* and *go*. In **Peepabun** there words like *beep*, *nub* and *an*. Each of these hamlet names can be mined for more than thirty words apiece.

The competition:

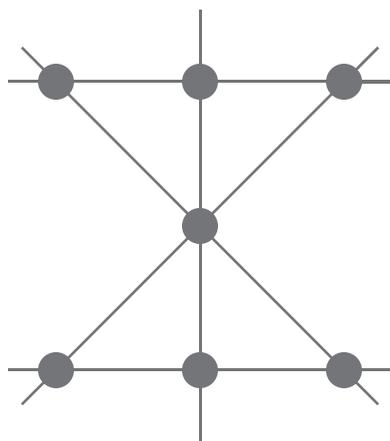
*Which hamlet's name has the largest number of real words used in our language today?*

(Slang doesn't count!)

### A Dots and Lines Challenge

The design below is made of seven dots and five straight lines, with each line connecting three dots.

Your challenge is to add two dots to the design so that you can add five more straight lines, each connecting three dots.



Thirty adults were presented this challenge as part of a research project. The fastest correct solution time was seven seconds; the slowest was sixty-eight seconds; the average for the group was nineteen seconds.

*Can you beat the average?*

### The Case of the Phony Insurance Claim

Without looking up from his desk, Aiden waved his assistant into the office. "Is this about the vandalized tractor-trailer?" he asked as she slid into the only chair clear of files and papers. "The one on Airport Road near Glen Haffy?"

Erina put a laptop on Aiden's desk. "Yes and no," she said. "The vandalizing was near Glen Haffy all right, but it happened on Highway 9." Aiden looked up with a frown on his face as she continued. "There's more. According to the driver, he was going west, almost into Mono Mills when the truck broke down. Got a ride to Orangeville and rode back with the service call. Seems by this time it was dark, but the problem was easy to fix and he got going again almost right away."

"So what's dark got to do with it?" Aiden wanted to know.

"Everything," Erina replied. "First of all, because it was dark nobody noticed all the graffiti on the sides and back of the trailer. See?" Erina opened the laptop and brought up photos of some very gaudy paintings. "The transport company says the truck was clean before. And – again, this is according to the driver – because it was dark he didn't know his tires were slashed. It wasn't till he turned the corner onto Airport Road and was picking up speed toward Caledon East that he realized a tire or two had gone down. Turns out when he checked that every single tire was slashed, both on the tractor and on the trailer."

Aiden rolled the images up and down. "So they're claiming replacement of all the tires?" he said. "And a paint job on the trailer?" He clicked on one of the attached photos. "This is a really big vehicle!"

"Here," Erina handed him a fax she'd been holding in her hand. "See for yourself. They're claiming every tire. Twenty-four. To replace the originals is \$650 apiece before tax. And there are a couple of repainting estimates there too. About a fifteen hundred dollar spread between them."

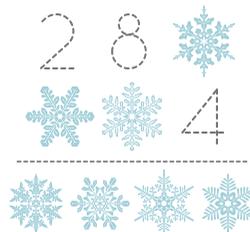
For the first time Aiden looked directly at his assistant. "Do you think they just made a mistake? Or is this a clumsy scam?"

*What is there in the insurance claim that causes Aiden to ask this question?*



### Flying Low Over King Road

The pilot of a small aircraft en route to the Brampton Flying Club was amused by what looked like a hectare-wide arithmetic problem in the snow cover of a large field between Bolton and Sandhill. Two youngsters tired of playing pond hockey had stamped out an addition problem in the field, complete with the answer, using every number from 0 to 9 once. However, by the time the pilot saw the result from the air, snow had drifted across some of the numbers so what he actually saw was this.



*Restore the addition problem in case the pilot returns. Which numbers from 0 to 9 have been covered by snow drift, and exactly where do they fit in the problem?*

### Finding Zeb in Shelburne

When the police got a telegram from the stationmaster at Melville Junction about three strange characters jumping onto a northbound freight, they suspected the notorious Triplet Gang was heading for Shelburne. All three of the gang, Zeb, Jeb and Reb, were wanted for questioning and the police had a particular interest in Zeb, so a pair of constables immediately set out for Shelburne. With no trouble at all they found the brothers sitting idly side by side on a bench in the railway station.



The appearance and the behaviour of the triplets were utterly identical in every way but one: Zeb always told the truth while his two brothers always lied. Knowing that, and because Zeb was the one they really wanted, the constables approached the three and asked the obvious question: "Which one of you is Zeb?"

The triplet on the left answered first. "This here's my brother, Reb," he said, pointing to the man in the middle, who laughed and shook his head and said,

"No, no. I'm Jeb."

Then the one on the right spoke. "You can't believe what these guys say. You're lookin' for Zeb? He's right here beside me."

*Right away, the constables knew which one was Zeb. How?*

### Another Puzzle from the Rafters at S.S. #15 in Alton

All by itself, the number 1 (one) is just that: 1. But it is a very accommodating numeral. Put another 1 beside it, for example, and the resulting number increases by 10: (11). A third 1 in the line increases the result by 100 (111), a fourth moves it up a thousand (1,111) and a fifth number 1 jumps things by thousands (11,111)!

See if you can turn a bunch of 1's into a small number for a change.



*Make six 1's equal 15.*