

## Mr. Judge's Word Circle

Despite the fact that teacher, William L. Judge, had to walk some 22 kilometres every Monday morning to get from his home near Caledon East to S.S.#9 Albion in Palgrave, he always had a Monday morning word puzzle on the blackboard before his students arrived for the day. Word Circles were a student favourite and an example follows for you to try.

In the small centre circle enter one letter of the alphabet. Add that same letter to each of the three-letter groups in the segments, then rearrange the letters in each segment to *make eight everyday, four-letter words*.

## To Inherit the Farm

An eccentric Albion Township farmer gives each of his two sons a new saddle horse and tells them to race from Lockton to Mono Mills. The son whose horse loses will inherit the farm. After riding aimlessly the two suddenly have an idea and gallop madly toward Mono Mills.

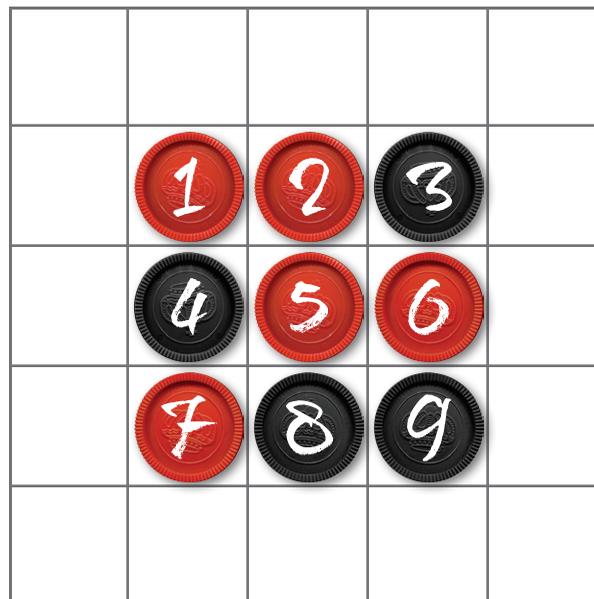
*What idea turned the challenge into a real race?*



## Adjusting a Game of Checkers in Marsville

Marsville's first postal service opened in the spring of 1873 at McCormack's store and created a bit of a dilemma for William McCormack, the store owner and new postmaster. He had to make room in his store for the much wanted new service, but in doing so he knew he would disappoint some customers by taking away one of the tables where they played checkers.

McCormack's strategy for appeasing them was to devise a one-person board game that could be played on an upturned nail keg in a tiny space at the back of the store. He resized a checkerboard, painted numbers on nine checkers and set up the game with this opening position.



How the game was played: To win, a player had to remove **eight** checkers by "jumping" any checker over any immediately adjacent checker to land in an empty square. The jumped checker was then removed (e.g., jump 5 over 6 and remove 6; or jump 5 over 1 and remove 1). Horizontal, vertical and diagonal jumps were all permitted.

After eight checkers were gone, the **one** remaining checker **had to be in the centre square**.

*Could you have been a winner in Marsville?*

## Has Genevieve Missed the Curfew?

On a warm summer night in the early 1880s, Genevieve was walking along Broadway in Orangeville when she suddenly realized it must soon be time to go home. Her parents had given her a strict curfew. "Home *before* midnight! Not after!" they had said. Genevieve knew it was well after 10 p.m. because that's when the arc-streetlights on Broadway were turned off and she had watched that happen a while ago. In near panic she turned to the only other person on the street and pleaded, "Sir, can you tell me the time, please?"

The man, a retired mathematics teacher, slowly took out his pocket watch. "It's somewhere between 11 and midnight," he said. "In 13 minutes it will be as many minutes before 1 a.m. as it was past 11 p.m. seven minutes ago."

If it takes Genevieve four minutes to get to her home from where she stands on Broadway, *will she make it before curfew?*

## From a Bridge in Creemore

Two young boys watch a very tiny toad squatting on a flat rock. The rock is a perfect circle with a radius of 80 centimetres and the toad is sitting precisely in the centre. The boys watch the toad make a series of jumps to get to the edge of the rock and are fascinated by the fact that each jump is exactly half as long as the previous one. The first jump, for example, covered 40 centimetres and the second was 20 centimetres.

*At this rate, how many jumps will it take before the toad reaches the edge of the rock?*



## Think Out of the Box and in a Hurry

Time yourself. How quickly can you offer a correct answer to these simple questions?

1

If rain falls at midnight tonight, how do you know it will not be sunny in 72 hours?

2

How many months in our calendar have 30 days?

3

Confederation conundrum: How many times can you subtract 7 from 1867?

4

What question cannot be answered "yes" without telling a lie?

5

What is the centre of gravity?