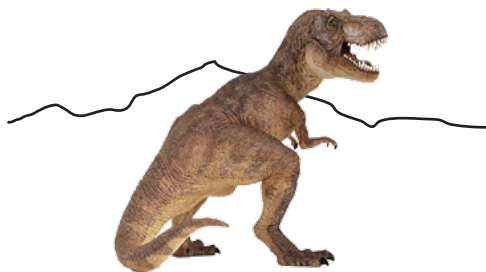# A Puzzling Conclusion

by Ken Weber

Who's Who at the Davies Reunion in Caledon East?

Regular attendees of the annual Davies reunion in Caledon East were quite surprised when a family of five distant cousins whom no one really knew showed up without their parents. It didn't help that these five brothers and sisters, except for Clara, the oldest of the group, were strangely silent. To make matters more difficult, Clara would speak only to Chuck and quite enigmatically at that.

"I think you should be able to figure out which branch of the family we belong to once you figure out how old we are," Clara said to Chuck. "The two kids over there are Donald and Elsie. Donald's the youngest. Their ages together equal 7. This is my brother Bill here, standing beside me. His age and mine add up to 33. Alice – I don't know where she's got to – anyway, her age and Bill's add up to 32. And if you add my age to Donald's you get 28. By the way, the ages of all five of us together total 65.

Help Chuck determine the age of each of these five brothers and sisters.

Who is Right?

Two young boys exited the Uptown Theatre in Orangeville after seeing a science fiction movie. With great certainty one of them declared, "There's no way a dinosaur could have eaten all those cave people! There were so many of them and they were all carrying spears and clubs!"

"Are you kidding?" replied his pal. "It sure could! That was a *Tyrannosaurus rex*, the most powerful reptile in the history of the world!"
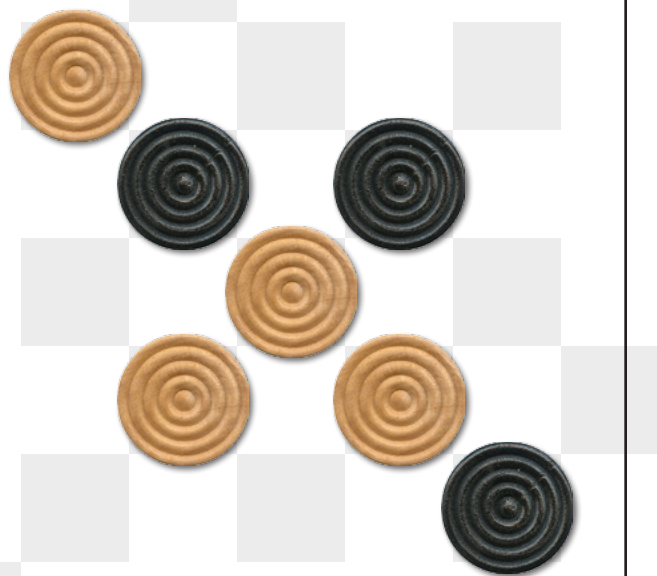
Who is right?

A Checkers Challenge in Inglewood

When the village of Sligo Junction officially became Inglewood in 1886, a local merchant celebrated the change by sponsoring a checkers tournament. To play, a contestant first had to get past a qualifying challenge, namely to solve the two puzzles below.

Challenge One
The Unbalanced 'X'

Balance this unbalanced 'X' without adding or removing any checkers.

Challenge Two
From Alternating to Identical

Rearrange this pattern so that instead of alternating between white and black, the checkers in the four vertical columns are either all white or all black. To make it interesting, you may touch *only two* checkers! (Any two, though.)

Would you have qualified for the Inglewood tournament?

On the New Blackboard at S.S. #6

To the delight of pupils at S.S.#6 East Luther, not to mention Miss Lang, their teacher, the school trustees agreed to celebrate the beginning of the 20th century by purchasing a brand new blackboard. Miss Lang immediately put it to use with a weekly word riddle such as the one below.

What am I?

I'm pronounced as one letter but written with three.

Many letters there are, but only two in me.

I'm double, I'm single, I'm black, blue and grey.

I'm read from both ends and the same either way.

Also at S.S. #6

To make her vocabulary lessons more appealing, Miss Lang used the new blackboard to present word games such as this one.

Place two letters between each pair of three letter words below so that when added to the end of the word on the left and to the beginning of the word on the right, these letters will form two separate five letter words (as in cab **in** cur, for example).

When you have finished, the inserted letters, reading downwards, must form an eight letter word.

den __ __ age
hip __ __ sit
fir __ __ eel
bar __ __ ode
__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __