

# A PUZZLING CONCLUSION

BY KEN WEBER

## How Far Can You Get Without an 'N'?

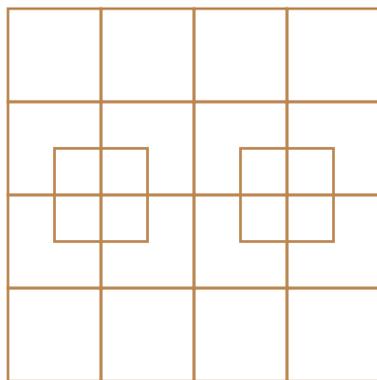
The numbers one, two, three and so on into infinity are cardinal numbers, whereas first, second, third and so on are ordinal numbers. Using words – not figures – what is the largest cardinal number you can write without using the letter 'n'?

## Silas Renarm Returns to Palgrave

No one in the village seemed to mind that each time Silas set up his medicine show in the field by the Hamilton and Northwestern railway station, the elixir he had for sale always tasted the same, even though he invariably called it a new and powerful potion. What did matter in the village was the puzzle he always had for the local children, or more likely, the prize of candy given to those who solved it.



The challenge in his most recent visit was to identify the number of squares in this pattern. *How many are there?*



## A Chronology Quiz for Canada Day

We all know that the biggest news event of 1867 was Confederation. In the 149 years since then, many truly memorable events have captured the attention of the hills, of the whole of Canada, and often of the world.

*The challenge: Insert numbers in the blank squares below to identify the ORDER in which the following twelve Canadian events occurred. The earliest event in the list happened right after Confederation. The latest one is quite recent. Note that each of the events in the list occurred in a different year. We have identified the chronological position of one event to get you started.*

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GRAND VALLEY

An F4 tornado devastates the village, tears through Amaranth Township and smashes into Barrie. (The year was 1985.)

OTTAWA

Thomas D'Arcy McGee, MP, close associate of Sir John A. Macdonald is assassinated following an evening session in the House of Commons.

SALT LAKE CITY

Team Canada takes Olympic hockey gold after Wayne Gretzky buries a loonie at centre ice.

TORONTO

At Maple Leaf Gardens, Elvis Presley begins the only national tour of his entire career outside the U.S.

FRANCE

Canadian Corps captures Vimy Ridge after other allied armies tried twice and failed.

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

For the first time, gunfire is heard in the halls of the Canadian parliament during an attack by a single terrorist.

STOCKHOLM

Alice Munro wins the Nobel Prize for Literature.

CALEDON EAST

Town of Caledon is established as part of the Region of Peel.

ORANGEVILLE

Dufferin County is officially established, becoming the newest county in the Ontario (a position it still holds).

CANADA

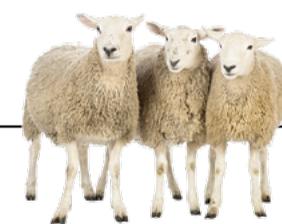
Avril Phædra "Kim" Campbell becomes Canada's first (and so far only) woman prime minister, serving for four-and-a-half months.

MISSISSAUGA

Train derailment causes what was until then the largest peacetime evacuation in history.

CALEDON TOWNSHIP

A speeding passenger train derails on the infamous Horseshoe Curve, leading to one of Ontario's worst rail accidents.



## Sibling Rivalry at the Sheep Farm

Four siblings in a family that farmed in Melancthon near Corbetton each owned a number of sheep. The following comments were heard on a warm Sunday afternoon as the four leaned over a fence, looking at the flock.

"If I had just three more sheep," Anson said, "then I'd have only one less than Betty has."

To which Clarence replied, "Yeah, well if I had three fewer sheep, Anson, I'd have exactly three times the number you have."

Delilah smiled ever so slightly. "You realize, of course, that my 22 sheep make up the same number as the three of you put together."

Betty was silent. She always stayed out of discussions like this.

*Just how many sheep does Anson have?*

## On a Rainy Day at Sandhill School

On a rainy day in 1890, Mr. Potter presented this problem to his pupils during recess at Sandhill Union School (S.S.#4 Albion and S.S.#20 Chingacousy). It was not an easy problem but, as he expected, some of the children in the early grades got correct answers well before older students because these younger ones had been reciting the alphabet every day.

*Four of these eight words have something special in common with one another. What are these four words and what is this common factor?*

level	sorry
knack	brown
round	beast
human	fling

## Shelburne Bridge Physics



A tractor-trailer 10 metres in length together with the load it carried weighed precisely 10,000 kilos. The tractor was a cab-over-engine design. This rig left Shelburne for a destination in Mexico and was being driven across a bridge two kilometres long. During the crossing no other traffic was allowed onto the bridge because it was constructed to tolerate an absolute maximum weight of 10,000 kilos; a weight of even a single gram greater would have caused it to collapse. When the tractor-trailer had 250 metres of distance left to complete the crossing, a sparrow landed on the cab and stayed there. Yet the bridge did not collapse. *Why not?*