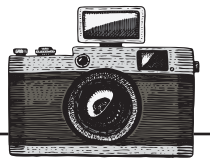
A Puzzling Conclusion

BY **KEN WEBER**



Not Entirely Silly

(These and questions like them appear in Mensa exercises.)

i

Marla was born on December 8 but her birthday is in summer. *How come?*

ii

Dustin comes to after surgery and is shocked by a large black growth on his face. Fortunately he is able to get rid of it without medical help. *How?*

iii

What word, if pronounced right is wrong, but if pronounced wrong is right?

iv

In what old time fall fair competition did winners move backward and losers move forward?

v

What has three hands with the third hand actually being the second?

vi

What is a non-physical difference between a north wind and a north road?

vii

Only three words in Standard English begin with "dw". (Okay, four if you accept "dweeb".) *What are the other three?*

viii

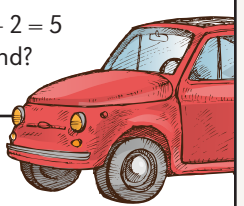
In this competitive sport neither the participants nor the spectators know the score until the competition is over. *What sport?*

ix

Is it true that in modern day Turkey you cannot take a photo of a person with an openly visible prosthesis like an arm or leg?

x

What is the similarity between 2 + 2 = 5 and your birth mother's left hand?



Spare Tires on the Hillsburgh Loop

You are about to embark on a journey of precisely 18,000 kilometres in a new car, an entry-level sedan. The journey will begin and end in Hillsburgh and proceed through a loop within North America on paved roads only. The purpose of the trip is to test and evaluate the type of tires installed on this vehicle. When you leave Hillsburgh, all tires, both installed and spare, will be brand new.

To fulfill the mandate of the test, each tire on the car must be driven for precisely 12,000 kilometres and then removed.

What is the least number of new spare tires you will require for the complete journey?

Some Canadian Numbers

For each statement below, enter an **O** in its designated space in the graph if the **bolded** number in the statement is *correct*, or an **X** if the **bolded** number is *incorrect*. When you have all the entries right, you can draw a straight horizontal or vertical or diagonal line through three adjacent **X**s or **O**s (like tic-tac-toe).

1

In the **1947** Winter Olympics, Barbara Ann Scott won a gold medal for Canada in figure skating.

2

The first reigning British monarch ever to visit Canada was George **VI**.

3

Of the four main river systems whose headwaters rise in our hills, only **one** flows into Lake Erie.

4

Richard Bedford Bennett, prime minister from 1930 to 1935, is one of only **two** bachelor prime ministers of Canada since Confederation.

5

Officially (i.e., by an act of government), hockey is Canada's **one** national sport.

6

The **sixth** province to join Confederation was British Columbia.

7

Canada has the **third** largest land mass in the world, after Russia and China.

8

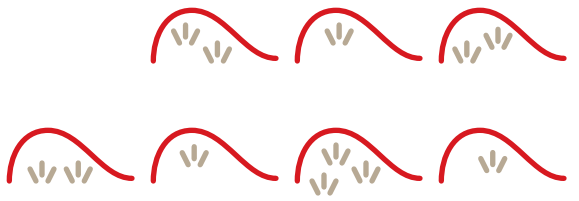
So far, only **one** Canadian, Alice Munro, has been awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.

9

The loonie, Canada's $1 coin, is now in its **fourth** decade of production and use.

Drumlins in Caledon

A professor of geometry flying over the Niagara Escarpment near Belfountain took an aerial photograph of several drumlins because their unique arrangement suggested an assignment for her students. From the air the drumlins appeared to be in two parallel rows, three in one and four in the other.



The teacher presented the instructions to her students thus: "In this diagram of seven drumlins, isolate each one in a square of its own by imposing three squares of different size onto the diagram."

Show the students how to do it.

A Wagonload of Nails

The rumour that Adamson's Hardware on Broadway in Orangeville expected a building boom was reinforced for sidewalk watchers one morning when a pair of draft horses pulled a wagon load of wooden kegs down the alley beside the store. The kegs were filled with nails, each keg weighing over 70 pounds. At the storage shed behind the store, the owner, Mr. Adamson, and three employees, Ed, Bill and Harold, were waiting to unload the kegs and got to it immediately.

They lifted the kegs off the wagon one at a time and carried them into the shed. When the wagon was empty and the kegs piled away in the shed, a watcher who had followed the wagon down the alley conveyed the following information to his mates.

Bill unloaded more kegs than Harold and Mr. Adamson together.

The number of kegs lifted and stored by Harold and Bill equalled the amount lifted and stored by Mr. Adamson and Ed.

Between them, Ed and Harold lifted and stored more than Bill and Mr. Adamson did together.

Arrange the four men in order of who lifted and stored most to least.