

A PUZZLING CONCLUSION

BY KEN WEBER



Bonnie Skips the Garage Sales

After spending an entire Saturday visiting garage sales from Cheltenham all the way to Creemore, Bonnie decided that the following weekend she would make just one stop, this time at a charity bazaar in Inglewood. Despite her resolve merely to browse, at the end of the day she found she'd spent all the cash she had taken with her.

She had not expected admission charges at the bazaar and she had to pay \$1 to get into Tent 1. And at each of Tents 2, 3 and 4, which she visited next in that order, she paid a \$2 admission.

After entering Tent 1 she spent one-half of her remaining cash on a clock and in Tent 2 she spent half of her remaining cash for an egg timer. She resisted strongly in Tent 3 but eventually caved in and gave up half her remaining cash for a brass kettle she felt was almost calling to her. Finally, in Tent 4 she once more handed over half her remaining cash, this time for a picture frame.

On the way back to her car she dropped all her remaining cash, a single loonie, into a donation box.

How much cash did Bonnie have before she paid to enter Tent 1?

What did she pay for each of the clock, egg timer, kettle and picture frame?



Looking at Numbers in Two Different Ways

Challenge number one

Aside from its shape and the quantity it represents, how does the number 7 differ from all the other numbers from 1 to 10?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Challenge number two

Two numbers between 1 and 14 are missing from this sequence. Which are they, and where do they belong in the lineup?

8 11 5 14 1 7 6 10 13 3 12 2

All Over the Hills on a Cube

The illustration below shows six sides of a cube. It's an historical cube, because the initials on each side represent local heritage communities that in the eyes of the federal government once deserved to have a post office. The six communities were known (and still are) by either a two-word name like Cedar Mills or a compound name like Primrose. (These two are not included on the cube, but if they were, they would be represented as **CM** and **Pr**.)



The challenge here is twofold.

CHALLENGE 1

Using the clues below if you need them, identify the six former communities in the hills which the initials represent.

(In the solution, we tell you how long each one had a post office.)

- GC** (in Town of Mono)
- BB** (in Mulmur Township)
- Rs** (in former Caledon Township)
- Cd** (in former Albion Township)
- Hw** (in East Garafraxa Township)
- BG** (in Amaranth Township)

CHALLENGE 2

Rotate the cube in your mind to answer these questions:

When the cube sits before you on a flat surface...

- i. if **GC** is on the top, _____ is on the bottom
- ii. if **Hw** is on the top, _____ is on the bottom
- iii. if **Cd** is on the top, _____ is on the bottom
- iv. if **Rs** is on the top, _____ is on the bottom
- v. if **BB** is on the top, _____ is on the bottom
- vi. if **BG** is on the top, _____ is on the bottom

Mr. Algie's Conundrum

At the Mechanic's Institute in Alton, William Algie posed this question to everyone present. (Coincidentally, they were all jewellers.)

"What timepiece has the *least* number of moving parts?"

It wasn't long before someone said it was a sundial, at which Mr. Algie came back with, "What timepiece has the *most* moving parts?"

Do you know?

Thirty Seconds and Out!

Allow yourself – or someone you are challenging – no more than 30 seconds to answer each question below.

1

What word in every edition of the Oxford English Dictionary published since 1928 is spelled incorrectly?

2

What remarkable product enables a carpenter to look through a wall?



What occurs once in every minute, twice in every moment, but never once in the entire 20th century?

4

Which sentence is correct: "The double yolk of an egg is white" or "The double yolks of an egg are white"?

5

What one letter replaces what one letter in each of the words "what," "where" and "when" and thereby answers each of them?

6

What simple parlour game is as difficult to lose as it is to win?

7

Imagine you are trapped in a dark room that is rapidly filling with water. There are no windows and the door is locked, barricaded and tightly sealed. How do you get free?

8

If you first throw away the outside, then cook the inside and eat the outside after which you throw away the inside what have you been eating?