

Canada from Eh to Zipper

Test your knowledge of Canadiana

» Only in Canada **BY SHERI RADFORD**

INVENTIONS Sure, Canadians invented insulin, the zipper, the telephone, the pacemaker and the electric wheelchair, but we also came up with something truly significant: the retractable beer-carton handle. And a pair of Canadians invented the electric light bulb – then, foolishly, sold the patent to Thomas Edison.



HUGE LANDMARKS

The rest of the world often views Canadians as humble and polite, but we love to brag about our eclectic collection of giant objects. A few of the West's quirky claims to fame: the world's largest hockey stick and puck (Duncan, BC), fly rod (Houston, BC), standing cuckoo clock (Kimberley, BC), mallard duck (Andrew, Alberta), beaver (Beaverlodge, Alberta), dinosaur (Drumheller, Alberta), sausage (Mundare, Alberta) and Easter egg (Vegreville, Alberta).



ICONS

Souvenirs emblazoned with Canadian animals include bear, moose and Canada goose. The hardworking beaver on our five-cent coin harks back to the early days of the Hudson's Bay Trading Company. Other national symbols are Mounties in red coats and wide-brimmed hats, and the red-and-white Canada flag with a maple leaf in the centre.



WEATHER EXTREMES

Nicknamed the Great White North, Canada actually has every climate type imaginable within our 9,984,670 sq km (3,855,103 sq mi).



Some northern regions remain frozen all year, while some southern temperate areas receive almost no snow.



SPORTS Basketball and lacrosse were invented in Canada, but hockey remains the key to our

identity. A quotation from Roch Carrier's classic short story *The Hockey Sweater* appears on the back of the Canadian \$5 bill, with an illustration of our beloved sport: "The winters of my childhood were long, long seasons. We lived in three places – the school, the church, and the skating-rink – but our real life was on the skating-rink." It's probably no surprise that Canadians invented the goalie mask and the instant replay.



FOOD Canadians invented poutine: French fries smothered in cheese curds and gravy. Also instant mashed potatoes, Pablum baby cereal and Marquis wheat, a cold-weather-resistant grain.



Canada boasts more doughnut shops per capita than any other country.

MONSTERS As Scotland has the Loch Ness Monster, so Canada is home to its cousin, Ogopogo. Since the 1800s, the giant sea serpent has been spotted in BC's Okanagan Lake, but proof of its existence has yet to surface. Also on the yet-to-be-proven list: sasquatch (bigfoot). Cryptozoologists have been chasing this large, smelly, ape-like creature for more than a century. The best place to look? BC's Harrison Hot Springs.



» Do you speak Canadian?

BY KRISTINA URQUHART

Buck A unit of 100; often replaces the word "dollar" or highway speed. A buck-twenty would mean you're travelling at 120 km/hr



Canuck A Canadian

Chinook A warm wind experienced near the Rocky Mountains in winter or spring. Temperature can rise 20 degrees Celsius in as little as 15 minutes

Cowtown Calgary

Double double A coffee with double cream, double sugar, especially from Tim Hortons

Eh Pronounced "ay." Quintessential Canadian term added to the end of a sentence. Similar to asking, "Don't you think?"

Giv'er To work hard; to give your all

Long Johns Long thermal underwear worn under clothes in extreme cold weather



Loonie \$1 coin, which features an image of a loon

Hollywood North Vancouver

Mountie A member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Pop Soda or soft drink

Snowbirds Canadians who vacation in southern countries in winter

Sorry Used liberally, even when not at fault

Timmy's Tim Hortons, the beloved Canadian coffee chain

Toonie \$2 coin

Toque Knit winter hat (often with a pompom), pronounced "TOO-kuh"



» Famous Western Canadians **COMPILED BY JENNIFER PATTERSON**

Actors: **Michael J. Fox**, *Back to the Future*, **Pamela Anderson**, *Baywatch*, **Ryan Reynolds**, *Green Lantern*, **Seth Rogen**, *Green Hornet*, **Joshua Jackson**, *Fringe*, **Kim Cattrall**, *Sex and the City*. Musicians: **Bryan Adams**, **Sarah McLachlan**, **Diana Krall**, **Michael Bublé**, **Nelly Furtado**. Artist and author **Douglas Coupland**. Activist **David Suzuki**. Athlete **Steve Nash**.