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Vol. 20 No. 17 April 24, 2023

## Everybody's Talking

**Inside a fairy tale:** Today's children, and adults, can thank Danish author Hans Christian Andersen (1805-1875) for "The Little Mermaid," "The Princess and the Pea," and many other fairy tales. Soon the author's fans will be able to visit a museum built in his honour in Odense, Andersen's hometown. Rather than displaying artifacts, this immersive museum uses new technologies to make visitors feel like they are inside a fairy tale. Designed by 12 international artists, the exhibits in H.C. Anderson's House mirror the famous stories. "The Little Mermaid" exhibit has a glass ceiling, above which is a pool of water, so visitors can feel like mermaids looking up into another world.

**Big vehicle:** Imagine owning a two-story sport utility vehicle. Sheikh Hamad Bin Hamdan al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates has such a car. Known as the Rainbow Sheikh, he commissioned the Hummer H1 X3, which is three times larger than a regular Hummer H1. This gigantic SUV has four diesel engines and is 6.6 metres (21.6 ft.) high, 14 metres (46 ft.) long and 6 metres (19.6 ft.) wide. Inside, a bathroom is on the first floor, and the second floor has a 360-degree view in a sitting room where guests can relax. A member of the UAE royal family, the avid collector owns a large assortment of 4x4 vehicles.

**Writing method:** Back in the 1800s, writing letters was one of the only ways to communicate across the miles. However, with writing paper scarce and postage expensive, people found a frugal way to get their points across: they practiced cross-writing, which is writing in different directions on a piece of paper. When they finished writing in one direction, they'd turn the paper 90 degrees and write over top of what was already on the page. Some would even write diagonally. Looking at vintage letters from the era, one wonders how the puzzling script could have been legible, but apparently people grew accustomed to deciphering it.

**Unfamiliar bill:** A 37-year-old Canadian \$5 bill didn't pass the recent scrutiny of a young employee in a Sudbury, Ontario, coffee shop. Customer Irene Nizzero tried to pay for her beverage with the bill that had been printed in 1986. At that time, bank notes were made from a different type of material than they are today, and the employee was unfamiliar with the look of the bill. Not to raise a fuss, Nizzero paid with a newer \$20 bill. But she came back the next day to show the old bill to the manager, who confirmed that it would be an acceptable form of payment in the shop.

## Quoteable Quotes

"Never pay attention to what critics say. Remember, a statue has never been set up in honour of a critic." —Jean Sibelius

"Ideals are like stars; you will not succeed in touching them with your hands, but... you choose them as your guides, and following them, reach your destiny." —Carl Schurz

## What's Happening

**Jun 23 Jul 14 Aug 11 - Night Market GP Night Market Festival** is a unique and exciting event that brings together the best of food, music, and culture. Join us June 23-25, July 14-16, and August 11-13 at 55051 Twp Rd 710, for more information call 780-228-6969

**May 11 to 13 - Beaverlodge Elks Lodge Fundraiser** Hot Dogs, Smokies and Drinks available by Donation. Located in Grande Prairie KMS Tools parking lot 1030am to 3pm. Come out and support the Elks.... see you there

NON profit organizations may submit events for FREE at [www.coffee-news.ca](http://www.coffee-news.ca)

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## Trivia

1. What was the "Drama in the Bahamas"?
2. Mycroft Holmes, brother of fictional detective Sherlock, was a member of what club?
3. The Shinano (Chikuma) River is the longest in Japan—T/F?
4. In what year was the iPhone introduced in the U.S.?
5. What is the Greek name for sisters Alecto, Megaera, and Tisiphone?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)  
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(Over)

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